

T. B. WHITE
WARDEN

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

March 2, 1931.

Mr. J. E. Hoover, Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

We have a prisoner here, Robert Stroud, Register
Number 17431, who came to the institution charged with
murder.

After he was here awhile, he killed one of the
Guards in the dining room and he is now permanently in
Isolation.

He is occupying himself by keeping up a lot of
canary birds and gets some literature from the following:

P. A. Nicodemus, 5014 N. Kedvale Avenue, Chicago;
H. F. Von Darm, 898 Grand Street, Brooklyn, New York;
Wm. G. Scarlett & Company, 729 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore;
Spratt's Patent, Newark, N. J.; and Drilling and Company,
1004 S. California Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

I will appreciate anything you can get in
reference to the reliability of these concerns.

Very truly yours,

T. B. White
Warden.

TBW:M

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-25004-1

REB:PRO

62-25004-1

March 14, 1931.

RECORDED

Mr. T. B. White,
Warden, United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

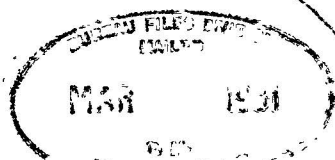
Dear Mr. White:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated
March 2, relative to Robert Stroud, Register No. 17431.

In compliance with your request that you be
furnished with any information available relative to the
reliability of certain firms named in your letter, you
are advised that I have instructed the Chicago, New York
and Washington, D.C., field offices of the Bureau to make
inquiries relative to these concerns and to transmit the
result thereof to the Kansas City Bureau office, in order
that it may in turn be communicated to you.

Sincerely yours,

Director.



TFB:FRS

~~62-25004-1~~

27217

March 13, 1931.

Special Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
Box 1408,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am attaching hereto a copy of a letter received by me from Warden E. B. White of the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, requesting that he be furnished with any available information concerning certain firms which appear to be corresponding with one Robert Stroud, a prisoner in that institution.

While it is not desired that any extended investigation be made concerning the reliability of the concerns named in the attached letter, it is suggested that a brief inquiry be made relative to these firms and the result furnished to the Kansas City office for transmittal to Warden White.

Very truly yours,

For the Director,

Assistant Director.

CC-New York
Washington

Enc. 998262

RECORDED

62-25004-2

756
APR 13 1931
F. B. I.
MAR 14 1931

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK CITY

N. Y. FILE NO. 62-2834

PS

REPORT MADE AT: NEW YORK CITY	DATE WHEN MADE: 5/24/31	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 3/19, 20/31	REPORT MADE BY: W. H. PALMERA
TITLE: ROBERT STROUD			CHARACTER OF CASE: PRISONER IN U. S. PENITENTIARY LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS MISC. ILLEGIOUS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Firm of H. F. Von Damm, feed, founded in 1858, all this time located at 898-908 Grand St., Brooklyn, N. Y. Firm of Spratt's Patent, dealing in medicines for dogs, canaries and other house pets, founded 80 years ago in Newark, N. J. with depot at San Francisco and factories in Liverpool and London, England.

C.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter, dated March 18, 1931.

DETAILS: AT BROOKLYN, N. Y.

On March 19, 1931, Agent was advised by Mr. Otto D. Rothe that the firm of H. F. Von Damm, located at 898-908 Grand St., Brooklyn, N. Y., is in the hay, grain, seed, feed, pet stock and garden supplies business, founded by Harry William Von Damm in 1858, now the property of Henry F. Von Damm, grandson of the founder; that this firm has always been on the same premises; that it is the regular custom of this firm to send to their clients all over the United States price lists and advertisements of new preparations, especially in the line of canary birds and other pets.

Inquiries in the immediate neighborhood confirmed what Mr. Rothe told Agent, who had occasion to go around in the large store and verify as to the articles that are for sale there.

DETAILS:

AT NEWARK, N. J.

On March 20, 1931, Agent entered the large store of Spratt's Patent, located at Congress and Jefferson Streets, Newark, N. J., and was informed by the girl at the switchboard that this firm has a depot at San Francisco, Cal. and factories in Liverpool and London, England, the firm being about 80 years old. Some literature secured by Agent on the premises, which are now made part of the New York office file, show that this firm manufactures anything pertaining to

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	RECORDED AND INDEXED:	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 Bureau 3 Kansas City 1 New York		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
		ROUTED TO:	FILE
		CHECKED OFF:	
		JACKETED:	

ing to the breeding of dogs, also canary feed and other house pets.

The telephone operator further advised Agent that it is the practice of their firm to advise their customers in all parts of the United States and England as to new preparations for the feeding and care of dogs and other pets, this literature being sent to the clients about once a month.

CLOSED

TDC:EB
62-25004-3

RECORDED

March 30, 1931.

Special Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
905 Federal Reserve Bank Building,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent W. R. Palmera, dated March 24, 1931, at New York City, relating to the case entitled ROBERT STROUD, Prisoner in United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, Miscellaneous. This is to advise that the investigation concerning Robert Stroud was initiated at the request of Warden T. P. White of the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and he was advised that the necessary inquiries would be made by the Bureau offices and reports submitted to your office for transmittal to him.

It is therefore suggested that a copy of the report mentioned above be transmitted to Mr. White for his information.

Very truly yours,

Director.



1103

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT - Kansas City.

File No. 62-583.

REPORT MADE AT: Kansas City, Mo.	DATE WHEN MADE: 3-24-31	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 3-20 and 21-31	REPORT MADE BY: M. T. Little, NJ
TITLE: ✓ ROBERT STROUD, U. S. PENITENTIARY NO. 17431.			CHARACTER OF CASE: Miscellaneous.

SYNOPSIS of FACTS:

E. J. Powell, C.P.A., and Frank E. Park, President, Frank E. Park Printing Company, Kansas City, Missouri, have corresponded with the subject on business matters only. Subject is a chemist and expert on canary bird diseases and contributes articles regularly to "The Roller Canary Journal and Bird World"; manufactures and distributes "Stroud's Specific", a bird medicine, through a friend - Mrs. Della M. Jones, 1345 E. Tenth Street, Kansas City, Missouri. ✓

C.

DETAILS:

At Kansas City, Missouri.

This investigation is predicated upon a request made by Mr. T. B. White, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, as contained in a letter dated March 2nd, 1931, wherein it is stated that the above named prisoner is confined in permanent isolation in the Leavenworth Penitentiary and corresponds with E. J. Powell, 601 Central Exchange Building, and the Frank E. Park Printing Company, 213 W. Eighth Street. Warden White requested that the reliability of the above named correspondents be determined.

DETAILS:

Agent interviewed Mr. Frank E. Park, President, Frank E. Park Printing Company, 213 W. Eighth Street, who stated that the correspondence had by him and his company with the subject has been of a business nature only; that the company has in the past several months printed numerous labels, envelopes, letter-heads and pamphlets for the subject, all of which printed matter relates to a bird medicine, the trade mark name for which is "Stroud's Specific"; that arrangements for the printing of the above described matter have always been made by Mrs. Della

COPIES DESTROYED

11 JUL 29 1964

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>P. L. Harvey</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	RECORDED AND INDEXED: 62-25004-4
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 2 - Bureau 1 - Warden, U. S. P., Leavenworth, Ks. 2 - Kansas City	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: FILE
	CHECKED OFF: JACKETED:

M. Jones, 1345 E. Tenth Street, Kansas City, Missouri, which is the address shown in the printed matter as the place from which "Stroud's Specific" may be purchased. Mr. Park stated that before his company undertook the printing of the matter in question he made inquiries and investigation to be certain that his company would not become involved in any difficulty through the printing of the labels, et cetera, for a prisoner in Leavenworth Penitentiary and that he insisted upon, and received, payment in advance for the work done which payment has been made by Mrs. Della M. Jones, above mentioned. Mr. Park stated that he is not acquainted with the subject, has never seen him and that all correspondence had by him or his company with the subject has been of a strictly business nature.

One copy each of a pamphlet describing "Stroud's Specific", two labels, an envelope bearing the trade mark above mentioned, and a copy of letterhead bearing the same trade mark, were furnished to the writer by Mr. Park and are attached to the copy of this report for Warden White.

Inquiry in the neighborhood where the Frank E. Park Printing Company does business disclosed that the firm has been in its present location for a number of years, is thoroughly reliable and transacts a reasonably large amount of business. Inquiry at the records division, police department, disclosed that Mr. Park has no criminal record.

Agent contacted Mr. E. J. Powell, 601 Central Exchange Building, who is a Certified Public Accountant, as evidenced by certificates displayed to the writer by Mr. Powell, who stated that he became acquainted with the subject about two years ago through the latter's interest in canary birds. Mr. Powell stated that he is the editor of "The Roller Canary Journal and Bird World" and has held various offices in the International Roller Canary Breeders Association of which he is at present the secretary; that the subject is a regular contributor of scientific articles to the above journal and likewise advertises "Stroud's Specific" in said journal. Mr. Powell stated that the subject receives no pay whatever for the articles contributed by him and is charged the regular advertising rates for the advertisements which the subject causes to be published in said magazine, the payments therefor being made by the subject's mother, Mrs. E. J. Stroud, 1353 E. Tenth Street, or by Mrs. Della M. Jones, 1345 E. Tenth Street. Mr. Powell stated that he has visited the subject on but one occasion, namely on January 18th or 21st, 1931, at which time he conversed with the subject on scientific and business matters only; that in his, Mr. Powell's, opinion, subject is a brilliant man, a chemist and expert upon the subject of treatment of canary birds. However, Mr. Powell stated that as a result of the one interview he had with the subject he is convinced that the subject is... "in the right place", and would be a dangerous man to be at large.

3.

Mr. Powell furnished to the writer a copy of the March, 1931 issue of "The Roller Canary Journal and Bird World" and on page nine thereof appears a scientific article contributed by the subject. Mr. Powell also furnished one copy each of two letterheads, being the official stationery of the International Roller Canary Breeders Association and the journal above mentioned, all of which are attached to the copy of this report for Warden White.

Continuing, Mr. Powell stated that about a year ago canary bird breeders in the United States were heavy losers of canary birds through a mysterious disease which experts were at a loss to diagnose; that the subject made experiments in the penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, as a result of which he announced a cure for the disease in question and this cure is the medicine, trade mark name of which is "Stroud's Specific" and which is described as an avian antiseptic.

Mr. Powell further stated that he would place the name of Warden White upon his mailing list and would forward to him each month a copy of the bird magazine above described, indicating therein the articles contributed by the subject for the information of the Warden.

Agent conducted inquiries in the building in which Mr. Powell's office is located from which it was learned that Mr. Powell is a highly respected business man and has occupied his present office for a number of years. Inquiries at the record division, police department, disclosed that Mr. Powell has no criminal record.

CLOSED.

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

62-1382

REPORT MADE AT: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE: March 30, 1931	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: March 21, 1931	REPORT MADE BY: T. F. MULLEN	JMS
TITLE: ROBERT STROUD			CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

P. A. Nicodemus, 5014 N. Kedvale Avenue, Chicago, engaged in raising canary birds for sale, and bears good reputation. H. Trilling and Company, 1004 S. California Avenue, Chicago, are wholesale dealers in seeds, and appear to be reliable.

P.

REFERENCE:

Director's letter of March 13th, 1931.

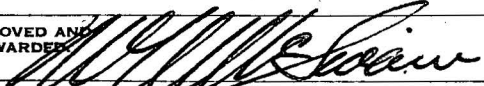
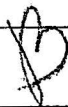
DETAILS:

The letter of reference enclosed copy of letter from T. B. White, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, dated March 2nd, 1931, requesting that investigation be made at Chicago concerning the reliability of P. A. Nicodemus, 5014 North Kedvale Avenue, Chicago, and the Trilling and Company, 1004 South California Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, who have been corresponding with subject STROUD, known as prisoner number 17431, at Leavenworth Penitentiary.

Inquiry developed that P. A. Nicodemus, 5014 N. Kedvale Ave. Chicago, Illinois is a printer by occupation, and raises canary birds as a side line, which business is known as the American Live Canary. It was ascertained that he is a middle aged man, and that his business is that of a nominal investment, consisting of equipment and a small number of canaries. He appears to be favorably regarded in personal respects, and has average ability.

H. Trilling and Company, 1004 S. California Avenue, Chicago, deals in wholesale seeds. Hyman Trilling is the proprietor. He is fifty nine years of age, of Russian descent but a naturalized American citizen, and has been in the seed business at the above address since 1926. Previous to that time he

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-25004-5	RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 2 1931
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: Bureau - 2 Kas. City - 2 New York - 1 Wash. D.C. - 1 Chicago - 2		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	CHECKED OFF: APR 20 1931
ROUTED TO:		FILE 	JACKETED: 

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11 JUL 29 1964

Letter SAC 4-8-31

Page 2.

was located at 1825 South Canal St. Chicago, in the same business. The firm of H. Trilling and Company is considered to have a net worth of from \$35,000 to \$45,000 and from what agent could learn Mr. Trilling and the Trilling Company enjoy a good reputation.

This matter is being kept pending at Chicago, awaiting receipt of reports from the auxiliary offices.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

KANSAS CITY OFFICE: Upon receipt of similar reports covering investigations made by the Washington Local and New York Offices, the Kansas City office will transmit results of this investigation to Warden T. B. White, at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

P E N D I N G

EAT:MCN
62-25004-5

April 3, 1931.

Special Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
Box 1405,
Chicago, Illinois.

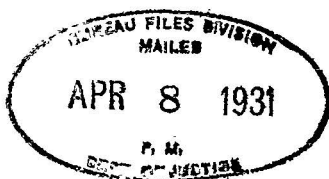
Dear Sir:

With reference to the case entitled ROBERT STROUD, Miscellaneous, your file 62-1382, your attention is called to the report of Special Agent T. F. Mullen, dated at Chicago, Illinois, March 30, 1931.

It is noted from Agent Mullen's report that this case is being kept pending in Chicago, awaiting receipt of reports from auxiliary offices. An examination of the Bureau file in this case discloses that auxiliary offices in this investigation have carried themselves as the office of origin and, after submitting copies of their reports to the Kansas City office, have properly closed the case. Accordingly, you are authorized to close this case at your office.

Very truly yours,
For the Director,

Assistant Director.



U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

905 Federal Reserve Bank Building,
Kansas City, Missouri.

April 2, 1931.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

62-25004

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication dated March 30, 1931, regarding the case entitled ROBERT STROUD, Prisoner in United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, Miscellaneous.

Please be advised that a copy of the report submitted by Special Agent W. R. Palmera, New York City, March 24, 1931, was furnished to the Warden at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, under date of March 26, 1931, and on this date copy of a report submitted by Special Agent T. F. Mullen, Chicago, Illinois, dated March 30, 1931, was also furnished to the Warden of the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth.

Upon receipt of additional reports in connection with this matter, copies thereof will be immediately transmitted to Mr. White for his information.

Very truly yours,

R. G. Harvey

R. G. HARVEY,
Acting Special Agent in Charge.

RGH-c.
K.C. File #62-583-

RECORDED

62-25004-6

APR 10 1931

15.

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THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Chicago City

#62-2056

REPORT MADE AT: Washington, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE: 4/3/31	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 4/1/31	REPORT MADE BY: S. W. Hardy MR
TITLE: <u>CHANGED</u> P. A. NICODEMUS, Chicago, H. F. VON DAMM, Brooklyn, N.Y., WILLIAM G. SCARLETT & COMPANY, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, SPRATT'S PATENT, NEWARK, N. J. & COMPANY, Chicago, Ill.			CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS Information Concerning

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

William G. Scarlett & Company is a legitimate business concern located at 729-735 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland, which is in the commission house district near the water front. It is in the wholesale seed, poultry and pigeon feed business and has operated from these premises for many years.

R.U.C.

62-25004

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated March 13, 1931 to the Chicago Office.

DETAILS:

Letter of reference requested a brief inquiry be made by the Washington Field Office regarding William G. Scarlett and Company, 729 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland, and that the result be furnished to the Kansas City Office for transmittal for the Warden of the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, in connection with Robert Stroud, a prisoner in that institution.

The Baltimore City and Telephone Directories reflect that William G. Scarlett and Company are wholesale seedsmen, poultry and pigeon feed dealers located at 729-735 E. Pratt Street and 205-207-209 E. Falls Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland; phones, Plaza 3416-3417-3418-3419; that William G. Scarlett, the owner, resides with his wife, Ella H. Scarlett and their son William G. Scarlett, Jr., who is a student, at 420 Greenway Street, Baltimore, Md., residence phone, University 1463.

DETAILS: Special Agent Morris D. Traub advised he had personal knowledge of this firm; that it is a large business concern, conducting a legitimate business in wholesale seeds, poultry and pigeon feeds and is located in the commission house district of Baltimore near the water front.

The Washington Field office has Baltimore City Directories dating back to 1920. These were scrutinized and recite that William G. Scarlett has been in the wholesale seed, poultry and pigeon feed business as far back as that year.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>M. A. Gurnis</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-25004-7	RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 10 1931
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 2 Bureau 3 Kansas City (1 Warden U.S. Pen., Leavenworth) 2 Washington Field 1 New York 2 Chicago		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION APR 10 1931 P.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: <i>FILE</i>	CHECKED OFF: APR 13 1931 JACKETED:

RECEIVED



905 Federal Reserve Bank Building,
Kansas City, Missouri.

APR 14 1931 AM

April 2, 1931.

62-25004

Mr. T. B. White, Warden,
United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Re: Robert Stroud
Miscellaneous
Kansas City File #62-583-

I am transmitting attached hereto for your information
copy of report dated March 30, 1931 submitted by Special Agent
T. F. Mullen, Chicago, Illinois, in connection with the case
entitled above.

Very truly yours,

R. G. HARVEY
Acting Special Agent in Charge.

RGM-ebc
CC-BUREAU —

Encl.

62-25004-

[Handwritten signature]

CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO FILE NO. 62-1382

REPORT MADE AT:
CHICAGO, ILL.

DATE WHEN MADE:
4-16-31

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:
4-14-31

REPORT MADE BY:
E. F. MULLEN -- CH

TITLE: P. A. NICODEMUS, Chicago; H. F. VON DAMM,
BROOKLYN, N.Y., WILLIAM G. SCARLETT & COMPANY,
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND; SPRATT'S PATENT, NEWARK, N.J.,
TRILLING & COMPANY, CHICAGO, ILL.

CHARACTER OF CASE:
MISCELLANEOUS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Auxiliary offices completed their investigations
in above matter and submitted reports closing
same. There being no further leads this case is
being closed.

- C -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated April 8, 1931.

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Letter of reference sets forth that auxiliary offices have sub-
mitted closing reports on this subject matter. There being no further leads
in this district, this case is therefore being closed.

- CLOSED -

DETAILS:

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APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

RECORDED AND INDEXED

APR 23 1931

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

2-Bureau
1-Kansas City
2-Chicago

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CHECKED OFF.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTED TO:

FILE

JACKETED:

REPORT MADE AT: WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE: 4/25/31	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 4/3&13/31	REPORT MADE BY: S. W. HARDY	EW
TITLE: P. A. NICODEMUS, CHICAGO, ILL.; H. F. VON DAMM, BROOKLYN, N. Y.; WILLIAM G. SCARLETT & CO., BALTIMORE, MD.; SPRATT'S PATENT, NEWARK, N. J.; TRILLING & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.			CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS, INFORMATION CONCERNING	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Report received from R. G. Dun & Co. on Peter A. Nicodemus, 5014 N. Kedvale Ave., Chicago, Ill., and Hyman Trilling & Co., 1004 S. Calif. Ave., Chicago, Ill.; seed reports being furnished the Kansas City Office herewith.

RUC

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. W. Hardy, Washington, D. C., dated 4/3/31.

DETAILS:

Report of Peter A. Nicodemus and H. Trilling & Co., both of Chicago, Ill., have been received from R. G. Dun & Co., and are being furnished the Kansas City Office with copies of this report.

The Dun report of Peter A. Nicodemus, 5014 N. Kedvale Ave., Chicago, Ill., reflects that Nicodemus does business under the style "American Live Canary", is married, middle-aged, American born, has resided at the above address for several years, is employed as a printer and raises birds as a side line; that he has only a nominal investment, consisting of equipment and a small number of canaries; is not believed to be owing other than current bills; is the reputed owner of his home, described as a frame cottage, valued at about \$6,000, said to be encumbered, and held jointly by him and his wife, and not deemed readily available as a credit asset; is not known to have any banking connections or to possess outside means of a tangible nature; appears favorably regarded in all personal respects; considered of average ability; no previous fire loss of record.

The Dun report of Hyman Trilling & Co., wholesale seed business, 1004 S. Calif. Ave., Chicago, Ill., reflects that Hyman Trilling is the proprietor thereof, that he is about 60 years of age, a widower of Russian descent but nat-

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>M. H. Curran</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	62-25004-9	RECORDED AND INDEXED: APR 29 1931
COPIES DESTROYED		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	CHECKED OFF:
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 11 JUL 29 1931 2-Bureau 3-Kansas City (1 Garden US Penitentiary at Leavenworth) 1-Philadelphia 1-New York		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROUTED TO: FILE	JACKETED:
1-Chicago 2-Washington Field			

uralized, that for some time he was associated with Louis Livingstone at 95 S. Canal St., Chicago, Ill., that in 1909 the business was moved to 1825 S. Canal St., and to the present address in November, 1926. Hyman Trilling is assisted in the business by a son.

A financial statement of H. Trilling & Co. as of January, 1931 reflects assets of \$53,855, liabilities \$9,105, net worth, \$44,749. Real estate at 1004 S. California Ave., Chicago, Ill. valued at \$22,000, mortgaged for \$4,500 and 1822 S. Clifton Park Ave., Chicago, Ill., valued at \$13,500, mortgaged for \$4,000, are held in the name of H. Trilling, according to a financial statement signed by H. Trilling. The business of H. Trilling & Co. is given close attention and said to be in fair volume. Mr. Trilling is personally well regarded and said to have a good knowledge of the wholesale seed business, according to the investigation of R. G. Dun & Co. The business occupies a two story brick building.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

TFB:CGM

62-25004-10

December 4, 1931.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

DEC 7 1931

Special Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
905 Federal Reserve Bank Building,
Kansas City, Missouri.

62-25004
over

Dear Sir:

I am informed by the Warden of the Leavenworth Penitentiary that a Miss Della Jones, formerly of Shelbyville, Indiana, is now residing in Kansas City, and is interesting herself to a considerable extent in the case of one Robert Stroud, a prisoner in the Leavenworth Penitentiary, who is serving in the isolation ward on a charge of murdering one of the prison guards. Miss Jones is said to have sold certain property, realizing about \$1200.00, and with this money she has started in business in Kansas City, placing on the market a medicine or tonic for canary birds, this medicine or tonic being something that has been discovered or developed by Stroud.

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61-2296
31-18427
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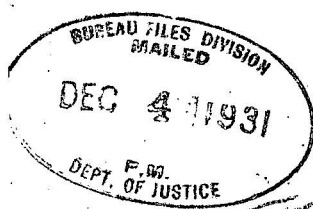
Warden White of the Leavenworth Penitentiary states that he is advised by Stroud's mother, who lives in Kansas City, that Miss Jones is of a questionable character, and her interest in Stroud's affairs is predicated upon a desire to make a little money out of this bird medicine and the securing of a bit of publicity. It is reported that she is married and is not divorced from her husband, who is still living.

It is desired that a confidential investigation be made for the purpose of securing any available information concerning the reputation and activities of Della Jones. Information should also be secured concerning her marital status. A carbon copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Cincinnati office in order that appropriate inquiries may be made at Shelbyville, Indiana. It is desired that this matter be given immediate attention.

Very truly yours,

Director.

cc Cincinnati.



TFB:CGM

December 4, 1931.

62-25004-10

Mr. T. B. White,
Warden,
United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

DEC 7 1931

Dear Tom:

I am in receipt of your letter of December 2, 1931, relative to Miss Della Jones and her association with Prisoner Robert Stroud, who is in isolation in the Leavenworth Penitentiary.

I have instructed the Kansas City office of the Bureau to make immediate inquiries concerning the reputation and activities of Miss Jones, and am also having inquiries made at Shelbyville, Indiana. When information concerning her is received, I shall be very glad to promptly forward it to you.

With best personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Director.

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

FILE NO. 62-642

REPORT MADE AT: Cincinnati, Ohio	DATE WHEN MADE: 12/29/31	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 12/24/31	REPORT MADE BY: A. D. NEEGAN
TITLE: DELLA JONES			CHARACTER OF CASE: INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

The Jones family at Shelbyville, Indiana enjoys good standing in the community. Fred Jones, a son, is a member of the State Police Department. Della Jones has for years raised and sold canary birds. She became acquainted with Robert Stroud through this business; she inherited money through her father's estate and left Shelbyville about one year ago to follow the bird business, undisturbed. She is still married to Lee Jones although there have been domestic differences for several years. Her moral reputation is good.

- R. U. C. -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated December 4, 1931.

DETAILS:

AT SHELBYVILLE, INDIANA.

DETAILS:

After making several careful inquiries about the city, it was discovered that Fred Jones, a lieutenant of the Indiana State Police, is a son of Della Jones and enjoys a good reputation as does Lee Jones, his father and the husband of Della Jones.

George Young, Postmaster, said that Della Jones is the wife of Lee Jones, truckman, 34 W. Franklin Street, Shelbyville, Indiana. He has two boys. Mr. Jones enjoys a good reputation as do the boys. Della Jones on 6/29/29, rented Box 3889 wishing to have a place to receive her mail where it could not be disturbed.

COPIES DESTROYED

11 JUL 29 1964

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>M. A. Rosen</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	RECORDED AND INDEXED:
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 5 Bureau 3 Cincinnati 3 Kansas City		CHECKED OFF:
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		JACKETED:
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
ROUTED TO:		FILE

She kept this box until 12/11/30. During this period, she received mail from Kansas City. At Shelbyville, she was interested in the raising and sale of canary birds in a small way. He heard that someone had opened the windows of her home and permitted the birds to escape, on one occasion. Mr. Young did not know anything detrimental to the moral character of Mrs. Jones.

Claude Cherry, County Clerk, said that Fred Jones of the State Police, is a son of Della Jones. There has been domestic trouble in the family but there has not been any divorce suit filed during the past two years. He knew nothing against the moral character of Mrs. Jones.

Transfer Book #10, page 253, Shelby County, shows that Lee Jones and Della Jones hold title to West half, lot #12; Franklin addition, city of Shelbyville. This is the location of 34 E. Franklin Street. The land is assessed at \$2540 and the improvement at \$2300.00. On 11/22/29, a mortgage of \$1200.00 placed on the property in 1928, was released so that the title is free of incumbrances.

John B. Thompson, Chief of Police, said that he knew the Jones family from association with them for the last 20 years. No reflection had been cast on the moral character of Mrs. Della Jones. She is a middle-aged woman, heavy build and not attractive. For years, she and her husband worked side by side in the hauling business, Mrs. Jones being able to harness a team of horses with as much skill as her husband. They were frugal, made and saved some money. There are two sons, Fred, a State Police officer and Clifford, a factory worker. Both of them are married and citizens of Shelbyville, bearing good reputations. Their mother, Della Jones, has been somewhat peculiar, being interested in birds; about one year ago, she suddenly disappeared and for a time it was rumored that she had run off with Martin Kirsch, #391 E. Broadway, another bird raiser. However, Kirsch has been back in Shelbyville for sometime and nothing definite has ever come of the rumor. The gossip started because Kirsch left town about the time she disappeared. Mrs. Jones received some money from an estate which she is supposed to have used in her business. The Jones', a few years ago, bought the old Charles Perry place, a fine old home on E. Franklin Street, where Lee Jones now lives. Chief Thompson stated that so far as Shelbyville, Indiana was concerned, Della Jones had a good moral character although believed to be a peculiar person.

C. V. Crockett, Cashier, Farmer's National Bank, said that both Lee Jones and his wife, Della Jones, had been customers of the bank. Their reputations were good. Mrs. Jones left town about one year ago and went to Kansas City. She was interested in the bird business. She seemed to be peculiar and perhaps unbalanced mentally or else people did not understand her. She had a savings account as follows: -

#742

opened 11/9/29	- dep.	3250.00
4/28/30	- dep.	1149.00
6/13/30	- dep.	<u>232.00</u>

Max. balance 9/1/30 - - - 1488.44

Closed out 12/4/30 by withdrawing \$1273.44, the balance on that date.

In view of the official position of the son, Fred Jones and the favorable standing of the family in the community, it was thought best to approach Mr. Jones directly, to obtain authentic information.

Fred Jones, lieutenant of Indiana State Police, stated that his mother Lella Jones, has been for many years a fanatic on the subject of canary birds. There have been differences between his parents over this subject but he had always endeavored to keep the family together and hopes at this time that she will return to Shelbyville to join the family circle. He heard from her by mail, receiving recently a Christmas card. When she runs out of money, he expects that she will come home. His father and mother worked hard for many years in Shelbyville and made some money.

About a year or more ago, she received nearly \$2000.00 from the estate of her father, Daniel Garner, of Rush County, Indiana. After receiving this money, she determined to get away from Shelbyville where she could do as she pleased about the canary bird business. For some years previously she had been in contact with the mother of Robert Stroud, Kansas City, in connection with a remedy for birds developed by Stroud in the Leavenworth Penitentiary and sold by Stroud's mother. Originally the contact was made through a bird magazine in which Stroud advertised. Later, letters passed back and forth from Kansas City and finally she determined to go there, despite all opposition presented by the family. Mr. Jones said he had in mind taking the matter up with the government as he could not understand how Stroud could originate or conduct such business. He blames the Strouds for inducing his mother to leave and break up the home. There has been no divorce proceeding started and, none is contemplated. He stated that his mother has no social connections with anyone, the reason for her departure from home being solely on account of her fanatical attachment for the birds. She is now 47 years old; possesses some business ability and may make a success of her venture. Mr. Jones says he feels keenly the disruption of the family and will be glad and willing to co-operate in supplying any further information that may be desired by the government. He added that his mother had a fall some years ago which may have caused her rather peculiar state of mind as evidenced by her unusual actions, but of course, this is purely a suspicion on his part.

RECORDED
BFF:CGM
62-25004-11

January 6, 1932.

Mr. T. B. White,
Warden,
United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

Dear Mr. White:

Further reference is made to your letter of December 4, 1932, relative to one Della Jones and her associations with prisoner Robert Stroud, who is in isolation in the Leavenworth Penitentiary.

Recent information as a result of an investigation conducted at Shelbyville, Indiana, shows that Della Jones is the wife of Lee Jones, who resides at 34 East Franklin Street, Shelbyville, Indiana. She is the mother of two sons, Fred, an Indiana State Police Officer, and Clifford, a factory worker, both of whom are married and citizens of Shelbyville, bearing good reputations, as do Della Jones and her husband. The Jones family has resided at Shelbyville, Indiana, for the past twenty years. For years Della Jones and her husband worked together in the hauling business.

However, Della Jones of late has evidenced some peculiarity, attributed by members of her family and citizens of the community to her interest in birds. The further information is to the effect that about one year ago she suddenly disappeared from her home at Shelbyville, after having received approximately \$2,000.00 from the estate of her father, Daniel Garner of Rush County, Indiana. After receiving this money, according to her son, Fred Jones, she determined to get away from Shelbyville where she could do as she pleased about the canary bird business. Her reason for leaving is said to have been as a result of differences with her husband because of her fanatical ideas regarding canary birds.

Mr. T. B. White

1/6/32.

Fred Jones, her son, stated that he blames the Strouds for inducing his mother to leave Shelbyville and breaking up her home. He stated that his mother has no social connections with any one, and the reason for her departure from home is based solely upon her fanatical attachment for the birds. Mr. Jones is of the opinion that his mother will return to her home when she finds herself in need of financial assistance.

The foregoing information, as stated, was procured through investigation at Shelbyville, Indiana, and any further information that may be received concerning Della Jones and her activities I shall be very glad to forward to you.

With best personal regards, I am

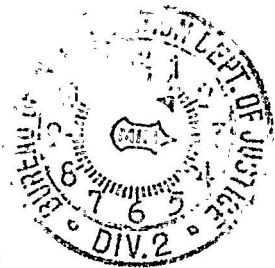
Sincerely yours,

Director.

U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

905 Federal Reserve Bank Building,
Kansas City, Missouri.

December 29, 1931.



JAN - 2 1932 AM

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

62-25004

Dear Sir:

With reference to Bureau letter of December 4, concerning Miss Della Jones, who is interesting herself to a considerable extent in the case of one ROBERT STROUD, a prisoner in the Leavenworth Penitentiary, I beg to inform you that in view of the recent break at the Leavenworth Penitentiary, and the resultant investigation relative thereto, it has not been practicable to complete an investigation in this case, i.e., Re: Miss Della Jones, Miscellaneous Matter, K.C. File #62-623. The case, however, will receive attention within the next few days.

Very truly yours,

R. G. Harvey
R. G. HARVEY, Acting
Special Agent in Charge.

RGH-ebc

JAN 5 1932

62-25004-12	
JAN 31 1932 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
<i>[Signature]</i>	FILE

U. S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

905 Federal Reserve Bank Building
Kansas City, Missouri
January 2, 1932

JAN - 6 1932 AM

Director
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

62-25004

Dear Sir:

RE: DELLA JONES
(Miscellaneous Information Concerning)
K.C. 62-623

This office is in receipt of the report of Special Agent
A. D. Mehegan, December 29, 1931, Cincinnati, in the above entitled
case.

Inasmuch as this investigation was predicated upon the
request of Warden T. B. White to the Bureau, I am not furnishing
the substance of the information contained in Agent Mehegan's report
to Warden White since no doubt the Bureau will desire to transmit
this information under personal and confidential cover. If the Bureau
desires that I furnish Warden White with the substance of the informa-
tion obtained in the Cincinnati investigation and further information
that will be obtained in the Kansas City investigation, I will be glad
to do this upon request.

Very truly yours,

R. J. Caffrey
R. J. CAFFEY, Acting
Special Agent in Charge.

RGH:MJ

62-25004-13

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 4 1932 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
SEARCHED	FILE

1-7-32

Hold for let for stenopose
Letter to ME
1-7-32

MAILED

RECORDED
JAN 8 - 1932

BUT:AM
62-25004-13

January 7, 1932.

Special Agent in Charge,
Bureau of Investigation,
905 Federal Reserve Bank Bldg.,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

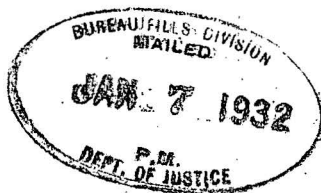
Reference is made to the letter of Acting Special Agent in Charge R. J. Caffrey dated January 2, 1932 concerning the case entitled DELLA JONES, (Miscellaneous Information Concerning) your file #62-623, in which request is made relative to the advisability of furnishing Warden White of the Leavenworth Penitentiary with the substance of information obtained in the investigation of this matter.

Please be advised that such information will be transmitted to Warden White through the Bureau, and it is suggested that your office furnish the Bureau with copies of reports covering your investigation at Kansas City as soon as practicable.

Very truly yours,

Director.

T. O. B.
B. O. O.



RECORDED
FEB 4 1932

TFB:EM
62-25004-11
~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 1, 1932.

Mr. T. B. White,
Warden,
United States Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.

Dear Tom:

With further reference to your inquiry concerning one DELLA JONES, who has been in contact with Robert Stroud, a prisoner in isolation in the Leavenworth Penitentiary, I am enclosing, for your information, copy of a report submitted by Special Agent L. J. Grout, dated at Kansas City, Missouri, January 23, 1932. I am forwarding the report in view of the detailed information set out therein concerning the interview with Mrs. E. J. Stroud, the mother of the prisoner.

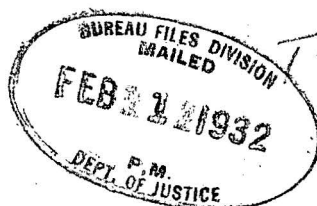
Should you desire any further information concerning this subject, I shall be very glad to have such further inquiry made as you may suggest.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director.

Encl. #726878



Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **KANSAS CITY**

K.C. FILE NO. 62-623

REPORT MADE AT: KANSAS CITY	DATE WHEN MADE: 1-23-32	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 1-16-32	REPORT MADE BY: L. J. Grout CH
TITLE: DELLA JONES			CHARACTER OF CASE: INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Mrs. E. J. Stroud advised that Della Jones began corresponding with Robert Stroud some two years ago and during the summer of 1930 Stroud advised his mother that subject was coming to Kansas City to live. Della Jones established a residence in Kansas City and at Robert Stroud's request she has been handling all correspondence concerning canary birds and bird medicines produced by Stroud. Subject visits Robert Stroud about every month and has announced that she is the instigator of the circulation of petitions for Stroud's release from the penitentiary and intends to marry him upon his release.

C.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated December 4, 1931.

DETAILS: At Kansas City, Mo.

DETAILS:

Mrs. E. J. Stroud, 1353 East 10th St., advised that she is the mother of Robert Stroud who is now confined in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.; that subject and Robert Stroud began corresponding as a result of their interest in canary birds and through advertisements placed in magazines by both; that apparently Mr. Stroud began corresponding with Della Jones approximately two years ago. During the summer of 1930 Robert Stroud advised his mother that Mrs. Jones intended to move to Kansas City, Mo. Shortly prior to December 8, 1930, Mrs. Stroud received a letter from Mrs. Jones wherein subject stated that she was contemplating moving to Kansas City, Mo., and discussed generally in

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11 JUL 29 1964		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>V. H. Harvey</i>	ACTING SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	14	RECORDED AND INDEXED:
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 - Bureau 2 - Kansas City		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	CHECKED OFF:
		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	JACKETED:
		ROUTED TO:	FILE

the letter the canary bird business and made mention of her interest in Robert Stroud. Mrs. Stroud advised that she replied to subject's letter and told her that economic conditions in Kansas City were very bad and suggested that Mrs. Jones stay where she is known.

On December 8, 1930, subject appeared at the premises of Mrs. Stroud and as a matter of courtesy was invited inside. Mrs. Jones had brought along all of her baggage and without invitation began residing with Mrs. Stroud. When subject made no indications that she intended to leave, Mrs. Stroud advised her that she was expecting company at Christmas time and suggested that Mrs. Jones find quarters elsewhere. Mrs. Stroud introduced subject to the landlady and Mrs. Jones secured quarters directly below those of Mrs. Stroud, which street address is 1345 East 10th St. During the short stay of subject with Mrs. Stroud she reported that she had some independent means of her own, had been divorced from her husband for several years and related her family history in accord with the information furnished in the report of Special Agent A. D. Mehegan, Cincinnati, 12-29-31.

From the time Mrs. Jones arrived in Kansas City, Mo., she manifested a great interest in Robert Stroud and made every effort to get to see him at the United States Penitentiary, but permission was denied until a later date. Immediately upon subject's arrival in Kansas City, Mo., Robert Stroud instructed his mother to turn over to subject his formula for Effervescent Bird Tonic and Avian Antiseptic, two remedies produced by Robert Stroud for the care of birds, which have not been patented. Mrs. Stroud advised that she objected to this at first but inasmuch as Robert Stroud is a grown man, 42 years of age, she did as requested and all of the business carried on by Robert Stroud with respect to the canary birds and the remedies for birds is handled by Della Jones. Mrs. Stroud does not know to what extent the business has flourished under Mrs. Jones but thinks that she has had no greater success than was had by her, Mrs. Stroud.

According to Mrs. Stroud, the breeding of the birds is carried on by Robert Stroud in the penitentiary and they are then shipped by express to Della Jones, who cares for them and arranges for their sale. Mrs. Stroud thinks that subject has no knowledge of canary birds whatsoever and does not train them nor does she keep them in a healthy state.

During April or May, so far as Mrs. Stroud remembers, subject was permitted to see Robert Stroud at the United States Penitentiary and has been a regular visitor monthly and corresponds with him regularly. Mrs. Stroud does not know what transpired during the period from June 1 to September 14, 1931, inasmuch as she was in Seattle, Wash., and vicinity during that period. During the fall of 1931 subject directed Mr. A. B. McDonald, a reporter for the Kansas City Star, to Mrs. Stroud who talked with her concerning Robert Stroud and who wrote a long article concerning him in the Sunday issue of that newspaper. Mrs. Stroud advised that in that article she was misquoted; that she does not desire publicity nor does she seek sympathy for her son. Mrs. Stroud thinks that Robert Stroud should be punished for the offenses he has committed and has initiated no move whatsoever in an effort to secure his release, neither did she deplore the fact that the prison authorities had endeavored to curtail the operation of the breeding of canary birds in the United States Penitentiary by Robert Stroud.

Mrs. Stroud advised that Robert Stroud has never contributed to her support since he has been confined in the United States Penitentiary and, to the contrary, she has in the past sent him money from her own earnings. Prior to subject's entry into the life of Robert Stroud whatever outside operations concerning the canary birds were carried on were done by her and all proceeds thereof were furnished to the prison authorities to be given to Robert Stroud. She does not know the existing arrangements between Robert Stroud and Della Jones for the division of profits. Mrs. Stroud does not believe the proceeds would amount to very much and it is her opinion without direct knowledge that Della Jones now has on hand approximately 50 birds, although Mrs. Stroud does not visit with subject and has told her to confine her activities to her own premises and not bother her.

At the time the Kansas City Star reporter, A. B. McDonald, was directed to Mrs. Stroud by subject, Mrs. Jones suggested to the reporter that she desired that an article be published relating a romance between her and Robert Stroud. Mrs. Stroud reported that sometime ago a newspaper man whose name she could not furnish came to see Mrs. Stroud and had with him at that time a petition which apparently this newspaper man was circulating in an effort to secure Robert Stroud's release. This newspaper man told Mrs. Stroud that he had heard subject say that she was the instigator of the circulation of the petition and that she intended to marry Robert Stroud when he was released. The newspaper man desired to verify this through Mrs. Stroud. This man expressed a suggestion to Mrs. Stroud that he did not trust Della Jones and warned Mrs. Stroud not to place too much trust

in her. According to Mrs. Stroud, Robert now in answer to all inquiries from outside sources concerning his bird remedies replies to the communications that subject is his best friend and suggests that people who are desirous of obtaining any information concerning him or his bird remedies, should obtain the same through subject. Mrs. Stroud receives no money from subject and cannot state whether Robert Stroud receives any money but she has been told by him that he does.

Some time ago Mrs. Mary Muzzalli, 3541 Olive St., called to see Mrs. Stroud more or less as one of those individuals who is curious and desired information concerning Robert Stroud. After talking to this lady a short while, who appeared to Mrs. Stroud to be an influential person, Mrs. Stroud directed her to Mrs. Jones. In subsequent conversations with Mrs. Muzzalli, this lady appears to draw the conclusion that subject is manifesting too great an interest in Robert Stroud's welfare to the opposition of Robert Stroud's relatives. At this point Mrs. Stroud advised that if subject in the future should not be permitted to see Robert Stroud both would immediately suspect that she was the cause thereof and agent drew as a matter of inference from Mrs. Stroud that she desired that Mrs. Mary Muzzalli not be interviewed.

Informant is of the opinion that subject is interested in Robert Stroud only as a matter of romance and thinks that she is ignorant and knows nothing of the care of birds. Mrs. Stroud has not visited Robert Stroud at the United States Penitentiary since October, 1931, so far as she recalls and hears from him only occasionally, whereas she used to visit him at least every month and heard from him very often prior to subject's injecting herself into Robert Stroud's life. Mrs. Stroud gives one the impression of being very fair in this matter although she does not relish the interest that subject is manifesting in the welfare of her son.

She described subject as follows:

Age	46
Height	5'
Weight	185
Hair	Black
Complexion	Dark
Eyes	Brown
Marital status	Married but not living with husband
Residence	1345 East 10th St., K.C., Mo.

Mrs. Stroud has observed that subject lives entirely to herself and keeps an untidy house. She knows nothing reflecting against the character of subject and has not observed that she has had any men friends visiting her. Agent gathered that subject is more of a recluse than an active person.

In view of the information herein set forth, Mrs. Mary Muzzalli, 3541 Olive St., Kansas City, Mo., will not be interviewed unless requested to do so by the Bureau.

Special Agent J. R. Cannon was present at the interview above mentioned with Mrs. Stroud.

CLOSED

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

October 23, 1933.

VWH:DSS

Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Edwards.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Hughes.....
Mr. Quinn.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Locke.....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. Helm, of the Kansas City Star, wanted to obtain a photograph of one Robert Stroud who had been released from Leavenworth. I referred him to Mr. Gates, who, in turn, referred him back to me with the statement that he saw no reason why we should not furnish it. I then ascertained that we had no photograph and so advised Mr. Helm.

Respectfully,

V. W. Hughes

V. W. Hughes.

See 47-3742

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

OCT 26 1933

62-25007-15
OCT 22 1933
Unit One

Bird Fanciers Want Killer Paroled

Robert Stroud, a Prisoner at Leavenworth, Has Had Outstanding Success in Raising Canaries While Incarcerated

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Bird fanciers thruout the U. S. today circulated a petition asking a parole for Robert Stroud, who has been doing some mighty fine things in canary raising lately.

Just now Stroud is in solitary confinement in Leavenworth Federal Prison, and has been for the last 17 years.

SPECIAL RULING

Under a special ruling Stroud was allowed to raise canaries. He began selling them thruout the country. Bird fanciers liked them so much that they started the movement for his parole.

In this the bird fanciers will lack the co-operation of the convicted slayer's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Stroud, who once prevailed upon President Wilson to commute her son's sentence from death by hanging.

"He is better off where he is," Mrs. Stroud said.

Stroud, now 44, was sent to McNeill Island Federal prison when he was 18 for murdering his rival for the love of a Juneau dance hall girl. He was transferred to Leavenworth after stabbing a fellow inmate.

STABBED GUARD

He was a model there until he stabbed a guard who caught him breaking a minor prison rule. A series of trials was climaxed by the death sentence and the final commutation by President Wilson.

When informed that his mother opposed his parole, Stroud had her name removed from the prison records as his "best friend" and substituted the name of Mrs. Della May Jones, his common-law wife.

He is held "in solitary" under a literal interpretation of his former sentence which stipulated "solitary confinement until hanged."

NS77

LEAVENWORTH--ROBERT F. STROUD, WHO HAS BEEN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN THE FEDERAL PRISON HERE 18 YEARS, TENDED HIS CANARIES TODAY AND HOPED HIS INTERVIEW WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL CUMMINGS MIGHT GET HIM A BREAK. CUMMINGS, SANFORD BATES, AND OTHER OFFICIALS INSPECTED THE PRISON LATE YESTERDAY. AS CUMMINGS WALKED THROUGH THE SOLITARY SECTION STROUD ASKED HIM TO STOP AND TALK WITH HIM. STROUD IS KNOWN AS THE "BIRD MAN" CUMMINGS WAS FAMILIAR WITH HIS CASE.

THE CELL DOOR WAS OPENED AND CUMMINGS WALKED INSIDE TO CONVERSE IN

LOW TONE WITH STROUD. AS HE LEFT STROUD CALLED OUT:

"IF I HAVE TO STAY HERE I WISH I COULD HAVE MORE LIGHT."

"I'LL INVESTIGATE IT," CUMMINGS CALLED BACK.

7/25 ON1259P.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Kansas City, Missouri
February 23, 1943

Director, FBI

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith a photostatic copy of an article entitled "Three O'Clock in the Morning" which was found in the cell of ROBERT STROUD, an inmate of the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and who was in solitary confinement there for a number of years. STROUD was transferred from Leavenworth to Alcatraz on or about December 16, 1942.

It will be noted that the article purports to contain observations of STROUD of the hanging of SUHAY and APPLGATE. STROUD'S cell was so located that he probably could observe the scene of the execution, which was witnessed by me. The only other Bureau representative who witnessed the execution was former Special Agent L. B. REED.

This article, to my knowledge, has not been published.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

DB:B

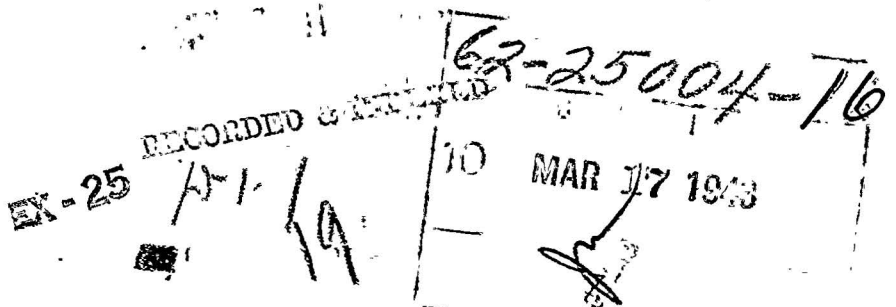
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62-583

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11 JUL 29 1964

MAR 26 1943



Riding high in the western heavens, brilliantly attended by the beautiful planet Venus, hanging, like a crystal globe, about five degrees below his southern perimeter, a bright August moon cast an eery light o'er the large prison, wrapped in slumber. The only sounds were the ceaseless throbbing of the engines in the prison power plant, the muffled tread of a guard, the distant closing of a door. In a drab, high-walled, but now beautifully moon-lit, courtyard, behind one of the more remote of the prison buildings, between fifty and a hundred silent, dark-garbed men, milled nervously or gathered in small whispering groups--their faces strangely white in the moonlight.

None of those faces were turned toward the beautiful pageant marching so majestically across the summer-night's sky. Those eyes that were not ~~fixing~~ ^{fixed} upon a crude, yet elaborate, electrically-lighted, wooden structure at the lower end of the yard turned uneasily toward a heavily-barred door at its upper end, through which shone a shaft of yellow light--and a strange commentary on human nature is the fact the no one stood in that shaft of light. Those crossing it ducked or turned their heads to keep it from shining in their faces, as if ashamed to have their ~~features~~ ^{features} observed. Maybe they were ashamed; they were there to see men die.

Here and there a match flamed up and was as quickly extinguished, as someone lit a cigarette. A tall man in a blue serge suit, light soft shirt, and the only straw hat in sight--probably a reporter--with a sheaf of papers in his left hand, moved briskly from group to group, whispering a few words here, a few words there, stopping now and then to place his papers against the rough brick wall and scribble a brief note.

A key clicked; the heavy iron door swung outward. From the spectators came the sound of scurrying feet, the hiss of sharply in-drawn breath, as all eyes now turned toward that aperture. And threw it stepped three men, abreast.

The central figure of this group, the one upon ^{whom} ~~which~~ all eyes were fixing, was a tall, erect, dark-haired youth in prison garb. His hands were strapped to his waist with a wide, heavy leather belt, attached to which, and passing over his rather thin shoulders, like gallowses, were wide, black straps, heavy enough to make a harness for a bull elephant. Observed at a distance of three feet, as he turned in the strong light streaming through the door, no shadow of fear could be seen in his deep brown eyes; the rather nice features of his boyish face were in complete repose. This was in marked contrast to the ~~strained~~ ^{strained}, anxious, and drawn faces of the two guards flanking him on either side--each with an arm linked through his, as if to give him support. He was too tall and too erect, however, to give any impression of needing aid. Walking, as naturally as the restraints placed upon him would permit, looking neither to the right nor the left, saying nothing, he made his way to the foot of the gallows.

This first group was followed by several individuals, then by another group of three.

The central figure of this second group was a small, middle-aged man with heavy iron-gray hair. The enormous elephant harness, flapping loosely over his narrow shoulders, gave a grotesque, almost

him

elephant
gallows

elfin appearance, as he stopped for a moment, swept his eyes over the scene before him and, screwing his face into a derisive grin, remarked: "Nice! They have it all lighted up for us."

In their nervous haste the two guards almost drug him off his feet, but he was still grinning as he approached the scaffold.

At the foot of the scaffold, where the thirteen steps leading to the gallows platform, stood as mute evidence of the fact that five hundred years of scientific advancement have been insufficient to divorce us from medieval superstition, these groups merged with a small cluster of officials. After a few moments of what seemed to be a whispered conference, they made their way up the steps in substantially the same order in which they had emerged from the door at the other end of the yard. Then followed a few minutes of feverishly nervous, bungling activity.

The two central figures were stood on the trap. Hands, with fingers which seemed to be all thumbs, fussed, fidgeted, and fumbled, as heavy straps were buckled around the legs of the victims; white cloths bound around their heads, covering their eyes; long black hoods, reaching to their waists, pulled down over their heads and shoulders; the heavy nooses adjusted around their necks.

As these operations were taking place, the witnesses had surged silently forward--each eager to see the minute details. At this stage, however, one man in the uniform of a prison guard had seen enough. He broke away from the crowd at the foot of the gallows, ran to the far end of the yard, where he bent over and vomited like a landlubber on his first sea voyage. The face of the gray-haired man was still uncovered. It again crinkled into a derisive grin. The lips moved; but I was unable to learn what he had said as a final jest toward life, the grimness of which he had always lightened, by a wit and humor, which even the scaffold could not dampen.

Let us turn back the hands of the clock. On a bright June afternoon (if I remember correctly there was a severe rain in the evening) in 1937, two men entered the Topeka, Kansas, Post Office. One was a tall, dark-haired youth, Robert Sobey; the other was a small gray-haired man, Glen Applegate. The latter approached the General Delivery window. There was a sharp cry of "Hands up!" ---immediately followed by a blast of gun-fire from a half dozen pistols and revolvers. Within seconds the two men were out of the post office and speeding away in a motorcar. And a young D.J.---"G Man" to you---by the name of Baker was left lying mortally wounded on the lobby floor--three bullets in his back.

Time: a week or two later. Scene: the prison hospital at Leavenworth. A prisoner in the custody of a guard had entered the hospital and was addressed by another free man in uniform, who evidently ^{glared} at him slightly. (As this was the period of the year when no coats were worn, and at a time when changes were being made in the official uniforms, it is impossible to say whether this second man belonged to the guard force or the medical force of the institution.)

"You are from Isolation, aren't you?" the man in uniform said as the prisoner gave him a slight nod of recognition.

"Yes."

"Have they got Souey over there?"

"Yes, he has been there several days."

"How is he getting along? You know he was shot. We had to dig a whole wristwatch out of his arm."

"He seems to be making it o.k., I guess. He's not doing any whining or squawking; but he has plenty to think about. They are in a bad way. They'll hang them both, sure as Christ."

"No!" replied the officer. "They will get a lot of time for those bank jobs; but I do not think that they will even try to try them for the shooting. I don't see how they can."

"How do you get that way? These guys haven't got a Chinaman's chance to beat the rope. They are probably lucky, though, at that." There was a touch of bitterness in the prisoners voice.

"You are wrong. He was killed with three slugs in the back from a forty-five automatic. Neither of these boys had forty-fives. They were using thirty-eights. He was sent out from Washington to make the pinch, his first assignment, over the heads of the old men in the local office. Such things create jealousy. I do not think they will want to try these boys."

"Say; listen," said the prisoner, earnestly, "you haint trying to con me?"

"No, it's on the level."

"Sounds like some prison bull going the rounds." And after a pause he added, "You are sure of this?"

"Certainly I'm sure."

"You mean, you know?"

"Yes, I know."

"Thanks," said the prisoner. "They will want to know."

Time: 10th of August, 1938, about 7 p.m. Scene: Isolation building at Leavenworth. Souey and Applegate are talking from separate cells. They have to talk loud to hear each other. They are comparing notes for the first time since their arrest; they have but thirty hours to live; they know that nothing they might say or do, could either help or hurt them. They had been kidding each other about the hanging for some little time when Applegate, dropping a more serious tone into his voice, said:

"I knew from the start we were all washed up. I am not going to do any whining about it; but, somehow, I can't bring myself to feel that I rate this."

"Neither can I," replied Souey. "Hell of a lot of good that is going to do either of us, though."

Actions

ENDERVOR

Returning to the bantering tone, "Why, of course you rate it," said Applegate. "You young squirts running around the country shooting policemen--they should hang you. Now, me--I am a respectable old man who never shot anyone."

"To hell you didn't. You shot Baker. I never even saw him. I didn't even know anyone was shot until we were out on the curb, getting into the car. The first shots I heard came from that fellow--- (the expression by which Souhey designated the position of the man who had fired the shots did not mean anything to his hearers). I fired two shots at him--over his head, but close--and he ducked. Then I turned and fired two shots at the guy in the cage. The first was over his head, but the second time I shot right at him. I tried to kill him, and I don't see how I missed. The bullet struck the glass right in front of him."

"You can't tell where they will go when they hit that heavy glass. But on the level," and again he was speaking in a softer, more serious tone of voice, "is what you've just been saying the McCoy?"

"Certainly," replied Souhey. "I never saw the man. I didn't know anybody was hit until we were getting into the car."

"Well, by God, I can't figure that out. When the shooting started, I spun around and fired twice. He was already shot. He was down on his knees facing me and saying, 'I'm shot.' Naturally, I thought you had shot him--he was down before I'd fired at all. I said, 'Well, what in hell do you expect running around trying to shoot people in the back?' " After a pause he added, "Well, its all over now. Lets not talk about it."

There was a long pause; then Souey's voice came again. "Do you know, I heard something about that right after we were pinched. That was what I was trying to tell you that time in Kansas City. An' I just remember--I forgot to tell the "mouthpiece" anything about it."

"You'll have to tell him in hell, now. Come on! lets talk about something else. How is your home this evening?" and they went back to their usual pastime-- the designing, building, decorating, and furnishing the dream homes, they would like to build, if they were free, and had unlimited finances.

Applegate's house was on the order of the large British country houses. A little affair of about forty rooms. Souey's tastes were simpler and more modern. He did not want over six rooms, but he wanted them provided with the most modern mechanical convenience.

"Wham!!" As the rectangular trap swung downward, two bodies shot into the brilliantly-lighted space below the scaffold. The youth, Robert Souhey, had been standing straight as an arrow--dropping like a plummet, he hung there, a limp, inert object, without even a quiver.

The gray haired man, Glen Applegate, who a few hours before had been amusing himself by dreaming of a palatial estate after the manner of his native land, was not so lucky. His body swung crazily from right to left, showing that they had stood him to close to

the edge of the opening, that he had struck that edge on the way down. Another blunder of the nervous hangsmen became at once apparent. They had given the shortest man the shortest rope. Their heads and shoulders were screened by the trap, now hanging vertically, but Applegate's feet did not reach down to the level of Subay's knees.

Several men stepped toward the dangling figure of the strangling man. As Applegate's knees drew slowly upward in his effort to breathe, one of these men grasped his ~~angles~~ ^{ankles} in the most eloquent gesture I have ever witnessed. His whole body actually screamed his desire to throw his weight on those angles, and bring the affair to a sudden conclusion. Lacking the practical sense of military men, however, our civil authorities have made no provision for a "coup de grace". And, as those heavily strapped legs strained upward--like a gentle wave striking obliquely upon a sandy shore, like a solitary gust of wind rustling over a field of standing grain, a tittering wave of dry coughing passed over the assembled spectators. With each new struggle of the dying man, a new wave of coughing had its origin and the foot of the gallows, to spread, slowly, toward the margins of the grouped witnesses, like the disturbance caused by a pebble kicked from the shore of a pond. As the struggles grew weaker, the waves of coughing likewise grew weaker. At last the dangling body hung still and limp; the coughing ceased.

So, this was death by hanging? Surely a strange way to suppress murder! I now knew why public hangings ~~had~~ ^{have} always had exactly the opposite effect. No reasonable man, after watching this rather dramatic spectacle, could ever again stand in awe of the gallows; nor, in fact, wholly escape its certain grim fascination--which, undoubtedly, would suggest to weak minds, an effective and even pleasant escape, from the toils of unsatisfactory existence. Stripped of the superstition and pageantry with which we surround it, death on the gallows is really a very simple affair. For the man of moderate courage, there is really nothing to it. Efficiently managed, as in the case of Subay, it is over in an instant. Yet, even when grossly and stupidly bungled, as in the case of Applegate, the victim cannot possibly suffer a thousandth part of what awaits most of us, who will die in our beds from such common ailments as cancer, peritonitis, pneumonia, and heart disease. Compared with the sheer, gruesome horror of our streets and highways, with the scenes enacted daily,--yes, almost hourly--in the receiving wards of really great hospitals, it becomes benign and beneficent.

At the end of twenty minutes the bodies were cut down and carted away. An officer signaled the witnesses to pass out. One man--I learned later that he was a D. J.--took a single step and then pitched forward on his face, as if he had been poled with an ax.

The silence which up until this moment still hung over this small dark mass of humanity--about which there was something suggestive of a blotch of black ink on a piece of clean, white paper, or better, a spot of black mould on the surface of a ripe melon--was broken into a babble of voices.

"We have another dead one."

"Doctor! Doctor!"

"Here is the doctor."

"Is he dead, Doc?"

Then came the voice of the doctor. "He is in a dead faint," ~~it~~ he said.

At a signal, carpenters fell upon the scaffold with crowbars and sledge hammers. The air was filled with the sound of the hammers; the scream and screech of drawn spikes; the clap of falling lumber. By four o'clock all physical evidence of the execution had been removed. Remained, only memories in the minds of men. ~~Said a guard:~~
SAID A GUARD:

"No, I did not care to see it. I know they went like good soldiers. By God, I am going to miss that Applegate for a long time. He was the coolest, keenest-witted, most pleasant natured man I have ever known. I never saw anyone with a nicer disposition. He always had something either pleasant or witty to say, and he could get a laugh out of anything."

~~That boy Subay,~~ "That boy Subay," said another, "even had Applegate beat for coolness. He was of a quieter disposition, but he never turned a hair. He went as coolly and calmly as if he were going to lunch. My hat is off to him."

"I would not have cared to have seen it, either," said a third.

"I could not feel that these boys should go that way--they were so likable; they always treated me so damn nice. I can't help but feel sorry."

"I could not bring myself to feel sorry for them," said another.

"I do not think that they killed the man, but I think they got a break--a much better break than five years on that 'rock'."

That was true. "They died but once," I said, thinging of Oscar Wilde's famous lines:

"The coward dies a thousand deaths;
The brave man only one."

AND

"FOR IN IT THINGS ARE DONE,
THAT SON OF GOD;
NOR SON OF MAN,
EVER SHOULD LOOK UPON."

With apologies to the Author.



MAJ:ERT

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS *JMN*

Re: Robert Stroud

I wanted to call your attention to the attached column by Westbrook Pegler which deals with the raising of canaries in Leavenworth Penitentiary by Robert Stroud. It is suggested that this be made a matter of record in the Stroud file.

Respectfully,

J. J. Starke
J. J. Starke

Attachment



6 FEB 26 1944

C-287a

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JMN

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Fair Enough



NEW YORK, Feb. 10—Some weeks ago there came in the mail from Minneapolis one of those privately published books which non-professional authors are forever sending out to persons having access to newsprint and type. This one was called Stroud's Digest of the Disease of Birds and,

after a glance, I handed it on to a friend who runs a large chicken farm, believing it might be useful in his business. The book was soon followed by a letter revealing that the author, Robert Stroud, had been a prisoner in

solitary confinement at Leavenworth Prison since 1916 and had recently been transferred to Alcatraz where he would be unable to continue his experiments on birds. Meanwhile, my friend, the chicken farmer, reported that the book was very good, revealing long and intelligent study and experiment and containing many excellent drawings to illustrate the identifying sign of such maladies and injuries as birds, and particularly canaries, are prey to.

Here then, is the story of Robert Stroud who has bred, raised and nursed canaries thru many years of isolation from all but the most necessary and formal relation with other human beings, and who, with the possible exception of the late Jesse Pomeroy, has spent more time in solitary than any other American prisoner.

STROUD, at the age of 19, was setting himself up in the business of pander in Juneau, Alaska, with a stable of one prostitute. One morning the lady came home from an engagement with a bartender and reported that he had paid her only \$2. Stroud went to the

By Westbrook Pegler

bartender's quarters and shot him dead, robbed him of such money as he had in his clothes and brought it home. For this he got 12 years and was sent to McNeill Island Prison where he served 28 months and was transferred to Leavenworth. There, in 1916, he stabbed a guard dead with a handmade knife. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to hang but was spared on a commutation to life by Woodrow Wilson on his own representation that the guard had been persecuting him.

* * *

THE warden of Leavenworth, taking no more chances, put him in solitary where Stroud, casting about for a hobby, began to show interest in canaries. The warden let him have a few birds, got him a microscope and literature and presently there were canaries all over the place.

Stroud experimented with breeds, feeding and medicines to cure their ills. He casually mentions that in the summer of 1938 he was "engaged in some experiments with canaries, to produce pastel pink and lavender plumage by feeding them on organic dyestuffs. He even describes methods of setting, splinting and restricting the use of broken wings and legs.

Stroud, now 53 years old and having spent 11 more years of his life in solitary than he ever spent free as a child and young man, probably will die in prison as a restricted inmate. He was sent to Alcatraz in December, 1942, for reasons which the Bureau of Prisoners considers to be good. His book is dedicated to his friends and to his enemies "whose mean, little or thieving souls, actuated by spite, bigotry, jealousy, sadism, vindictiveness or ignorance, by their very opposition have stimulated me to greater effort and accomplishment than would have otherwise been impossible for me."

He no longer has his canaries.

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H.

H. H. CLEGG
Room 5256



MAJ:RH

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 24, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS ✓

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
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You will recall that in recent weeks Westbrook Pegler has written two columns on Robert Stroud, an individual serving a life sentence who is quite an authority on canaries.

We have secured from the Congressional Library a copy of the book entitled "Diseases of Canaries" written by Stroud and published by the Canary Publishers Company, Kansas City, Missouri, in 1933. The book was edited by Herbert C. Sanborn, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University. While the book is of no interest from the standpoint of law enforcement, it appears to be a rather thorough treatise on canary diseases. Some of the chapters are headed "Anatomy," "My Own Method of Feeding," "The Moults," "Infectious Necrosis of Canaries," and "My Bird is Dead."

We have also borrowed from the Congressional Library a copy of the January, 1943, issue of "American Canary Magazine" which contains on page 18 and 19 an article by Stroud entitled "I Wonder." Page 19 contains an announcement of "Stroud's Digest on the Diseases of Birds," which will sell for \$5.00. A photostatic copy of the article and this announcement is attached.

While we will not be able to borrow a copy of "Stroud's Digest on the Diseases of Birds" this matter will be followed and an attempt will be made later to review a copy of this just as a matter of possible interest.

Respectfully,

M. A. Jones
M. A. Jones

ENCLOSURE
Attachment

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I WONDER

By ROBERT STROUD

PROBABLY every man and woman who has ever dedicated himself or herself to a worthy task has sooner or later reached the place where it was necessary to ask and answer the questions: "Am I a fool? Is this thing to which I have given myself and so much of my time and effort really of importance and value, or am I simply deluding myself, fretting away my life in the service of those who do not wish to be served?" Having reached that point in my own life, I have decided to put the question fairly and frankly up to you.

Many years before most of you were born, a young man with an insatiable craving for knowledge, but no formal schooling, entered a United States penitentiary. Entered it with the firm resolve to add something useful to his knowledge every day. He studied mathematics; chemistry, as far as possible without a laboratory; physics, geology; astronomy; and he read incessantly anything he could get hold of pertaining to medicine and the biological sciences in general. This went on for seven years. Then this young man found himself in a solitary cell, under sentence of death, and under these circumstances, he developed a distaste for the mental concentration essential to the pursuit of abstract science and, so, turned to the less arduous studies of music, language and drawing.

After four years under sentence of death, he found himself facing a life sentence in solitary confinement, and in the hope of being able to earn the money with which to supply his small needs, he took up the breeding of canaries, which provided him with his first opportunity to turn his studies of the biological sciences to some account. Throughout these years, however, he had been drifting like a ship without a rudder. He studied to be studying—this, that and the other thing—whatever of interest presented itself, but with no goal beyond the needs of interests of the moment.

Carefully he built up a flock of fine birds and, as he lived in the room with them, he had them under constant observation twenty-four hours per day. He learned their every normal mood and action. When one died or was killed, he dissected it and studied the appearance of each organ until all of the structure of normal bird anatomy was as familiar to him as his own hands, which were his principal and often his only tools.

Then one day, a contagious disease struck his flock. He saw loved pets dying like flies and was powerless to do anything for them. Frantically, he appealed to Government and State laboratories for assistance; frantically, he dispatched letters to large publishing houses for books on bird and poultry diseases; and, frantically, he waded through their pages, until the conclusion was gradually forced upon him that none of the writers knew what they were writing about; that bird medicine, as a science, simply did not exist. It was then, with half of his flock already dead and the other half sick and dying, that he dedicated himself to the proposition that fewer birds should suffer and die because their diseases were not understood.

Yes, as many of you probably have already guessed, this young man was myself.

Realizing that I could depend only upon myself I began calling up half forgotten ideas gathered in my studies of chemistry and biology, applying them to the problem at hand. I made culture

media from the fried liver served for my dinner and wood glue, and cultivated the disease germs in medicine bottles. I identified the disease of my flock and cured it. Then, I identified other diseases and cured them, writing my findings for your benefit—sometimes with permission, sometimes without. In 1932 I wrote a little book, "Diseases of Canaries," which was published by E. J. Powell of Kansas City, and many of you have been kind enough to tell me that it is the best thing on bird diseases that has ever come to your attention. Be that as it may, I have never received one dime royalty for this work and have been prevented from prosecuting infringement claims against Mr. Powell.

Regardless of all this and in spite of any difficulties I may have had, I have never ceased or slackened my pace in my study of bird diseases. I have taught myself bacteriology, histology and pathology. I have developed a complete system of microscopic technique and I have carried on a more extensive experimentation in avian therapeutics than any person who has ever lived—with the result that I have been able to find a cure for every contagious or infectious disease with which I have worked, and I have worked with practically every disease to which canaries are susceptible. As a side issue, I have also carried on extensive researches into the causes of a number of little-understood conditions.

Throughout the years, I have received thousands of appeals for help from bird breeders and poultrymen who had contagious diseases in their flocks, and I have never been too busy or too tired to answer every one of these letters the day it was received, though I cannot say that those having jurisdiction over me have always been so thoughtful of your need for haste which, of course, was not my fault. Through these letters, I have been able to test my findings on practically all species of birds, ranging from finches to ostriches.

Now, I have put the practical results of more than thirty years of intensive study into a book, "Stroud's Digest of the Diseases of Birds," from which you have been able to read many extracts in the pages of this magazine during the last year. I fear, however, that these extracts have given you a limited impression of the scope of this work, but a few brief statements concerning its contents will correct that.

The main section of the book consists of more than three hundred alphabetically arranged headings under which are discussed the extant knowledge of bird diseases, coupled with a complete report of my own researches. All of my processes and formulae are given in detail—and it may interest you to know that not one of the articles that have appeared in this magazine has contained more than a fraction of what I have written on the subjects discussed. There are more than five hundred cross references and over a hundred notes, by means of which it is possible for the breeder to start with any symptom or lesion observed in his birds, trace down the disease, make the diagnosis and learn all that there is known about that particular disease within a matter of minutes. **THE KNOWLEDGE YOU WANT, WHEN YOU WANT IT.** This section is illustrated with eighty-seven plates, containing two hundred and ten ana-

tomical, histological and pathological drawings. There are gross sketches and microscopic drawings of every body structure in sickness and in health.

I do not think it is necessary to say anything concerning the clarity of my style of writing, since you have all seen plenty of samples; but, in order to be sure that the book was not over the head of my most unlettered reader, I have added a supplement which contains a glossary of five hundred ninety-eight technical terms used in the text, concerning each of which I have given the most modern spelling, other spellings met with in the literature, the pronunciation, the Greek and Latin root words and their meaning, the original meaning of the term and what it has come to mean through the usages of the very best writers.

In addition to the glossary, this supplement contains much other scientific information concerning my own histological and pathological techniques, which will, of course, be of little value to the bird breeder, but of great value to anyone wishing to carry on independent research.

During the past year, many of you have told me that you are anxiously awaiting the publication of this book, but to return to the question in my first paragraph and the heading of this article—I WONDER if you actually do want it. If so, how badly do you want it? The book will run between six and seven hundred pages; it will be printed on

good paper and bound in a good grade of imitation leather; and it will contain more information on bird diseases than all other writings in the English language combined; but to bring the first edition to you will involve a printing and binding bill of \$5,000—and I am still in my solitary cell—my only source of income, the few birds I am permitted to raise.

So, I wonder, do you want this book, or should I throw it in my ashcan? I could, maybe, turn it over to some one to publish for me, but I have no intention of being gypped the second time. If one thousand of you, which is only a fraction of the number I have personally helped throughout the years, want this book badly enough to place your order at once, with the understanding that you will have to wait at least three months for delivery, I will be able to bring it to you. But, if each of you figure—let George do it—I will place my order later when it is more convenient—you will have contributed to closing the door to an understanding of bird diseases in your own faces, and when contagion strikes your flocks, you will cry in vain to the laboratories for help they cannot, now or ever, give for the simple reason that laboratory workers do not work twenty hours a day and live, year in and year out, in their bird rooms.

It is up to you. I wonder what you are going to do about it.

Announcing Stroud's Digest on the Diseases of Birds By ROBERT STROUD

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Appendix gives information on the doses of drugs; the examination of the blood; the preparation of tissue; the shipment of bodies; and pathological technique. One authority, after examining the manuscript, said: "This is not a single book; it is a multitude of books; it is a complete symposium of medical science as applied to bird diseases, brought within the grasp of the ordinary person. No bird breeder or poultryman can possibly afford to be without it."

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Fair Enough



CHICAGO, Feb. 21—Perhaps I should not have written about Robert Stroud, the murderer who has spent the last 28 years in solitary confinement in Leavenworth and Alcatraz, because now his press agent is all over me with propaganda about his wonderful service to society in developing remedies for the diseases of birds and I can see no other safe course than to keep him locked up, and in solitary, until he dies. If it could be arranged to let him resume his studies that might be a good idea for he apparently has done work of considerable value to the poultry industry. His press agent, L. G. Marcus, of Minneapolis, says that if the prison authorities would really give the man facilities he could greatly curtail the loss of poultry, especially turkeys. He says also that Stroud has a way to shorten the war by means of something that could be made cheaply in any brewery, but I don't believe that.

BUT if Stroud should be deemed to have a right to keep canaries and peddle them, then the next man would have an equal right to raise dogs or goats or pigeons and complications would ensue quickly. And the fact is that he did enjoy remarkable special privileges for a long time and lost them only because he has an ornery streak which makes him an imminent menace to his fellowmen and began to take serious liberties a little over a year ago.

By Westbrook Peg

There are a number of remarkable prisoners in Federal and state institutions who have whiled away the days and years and stood off the rot by study. One is a mathematician and another from whom I receive occasional letters smuggled into the mail, has become an impressive writer altho he was just an ignorant, murderous little gutter-snipe when he went up more than 20 years ago.

STROUD feels very sorry for himself and so do the members of the little cult of canary breeders who think he should be allowed to carry on his work. They have lost sight of the fact that he is twice a killer and once was condemned. However, it would be cruel not to try to imagine his own frame of mind and he certainly has good reason to feel that he has done something to justify that gift. It is hardly a question now of payment of his debt to society. The weight of that debt cannot be measured against his contribution to the world but his record proves that he is not a man to be trusted at liberty. The prison system might, however, find a way to make use of its Strouds. He could still be kept guarded in solitary and allowed to have his birds and continue his contributions to knowledge of an important subject in which few men possess equal information because so few are interested. That, however, is about the best that can be said for Stroud.

12-25-44-18
ENCLOSURE

MAJ:RH

February 24, 1944

MR. NICHOLS

You will recall that in recent weeks Westbrook Pegler has written two columns on Robert Stroud, an individual serving a life sentence who is quite an authority on canaries.

We have secured from the Congressional Library a copy of the book entitled "Diseases of Canaries" written by Stroud and published by the Canary Publishers Company, Kansas City, Missouri, in 1933. The book was edited by Herbert C. Sanborn, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University. While the book is of no interest from the standpoint of law enforcement, it appears to be a rather thorough treatise on canary diseases. Some of the chapters are headed "Anatomy," "My Own Method of Feeding," "The Molt," "Infectious Necrosis of Canaries," and "My Bird is Dead."

We have also borrowed from the Congressional Library a copy of the January, 1943, issue of "American Canary Magazine" which contains on page 18 and 19 an article by Stroud entitled "I Wonder." Page 19 contains an announcement of "Stroud's Digest on the Diseases of Birds," which will sell for \$5.00. A photostatic copy of the article and this announcement is attached.

While we will not be able to borrow a copy of "Stroud's Digest on the Diseases of Birds" this matter will be followed and an attempt will be made later to review a copy of this just as a matter of possible interest.

Respectfully,

M. A. Jones

Tolson _____
E. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Coffey _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Acers _____
Carson _____
Harbo _____
Hendon _____
Mumford _____
Starke _____
Quinn-Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Attachment

M. A. Jones

ANONYMOUS
KEEP ENVELOPE

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover F.B.I.
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

*James M. [unclear]
4/10*

ENCLOSURE

BEHIND FILE

END

RECORDED - 87
INDEXED - 87

SEP 6 1987

*OR/4/12/87
REC'D*

-19

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. HOOVER

DATE: 9-15-55

FROM : SAC AUERBACH

PERSONAL

SUBJECT: "BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ"
 The Story of Robert Stroud,
 Thomas E. Gaddis, Random House,
 New York, 1955

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Sizoo	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

I have been confidentially advised by [redacted] our
 good contact [redacted]
 here, who also [redacted] that the
 above-captioned book contains some comments concerning you.

The pre-release "review" copy is apparently out and
 concerns itself with Stroud's life at Alcatraz where he is
 allegedly lifetime confined for murder. Stroud supposedly has
 the longest record of solitary confinement in the United States
 and developed a hobby of raising canaries.

[redacted] tells me that in the book there is an incident
 related reflecting that you saw the man in 1936 and bought a
 ten-dollar canary for your mother with a guarantee that if it
 weren't any good he would replace it. Allegedly the bird turned
 out not to be a singer, and the story is told that he replaced it
 but that prison officials were circulating "nationwide" that
 Stroud had sold you a painted sparrow instead of a canary. I
 know nothing more concerning the incident but thought you ought to
 know about the book.

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE Corps (Army)

Of odd interest here is the fact that [redacted]
 [redacted] has just now been assigned
 to the local CIC Unit at [redacted] Confidentially,
 according to the supervisor of the group, [redacted] is being held
 to do applicant background work "where he can do us no harm."
 [redacted], who is [redacted]-year-old, single chap, is apparently going to
 be here for a couple of years. He attended CIC school, was
 assigned to G-2 at San Francisco, and was asked by the Colonel
 in charge there where he would like to be assigned, and thus got
 back to [redacted]. You will remember that [redacted] family is
 from this area and that not only the Justice but also the boy
 went to [redacted] at [redacted].

RDA:LM

62-25604-20

RECORDED-12

INDEXED-12

OCT 18 1955

1955

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b7C
b7Db6
b7CUNRECORDED
FILED IN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. NICHOLS

DATE: September 28,
1955

FROM : M. A. JONES

SUBJECT: BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ
The Story of Robert Stroud
by Thomas E. Gaddis
BOOK REVIEW

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Harbo	✓
Mohr	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Sizoo	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

SYNOPSIS:

This memorandum summarizes captioned book.

[redacted] a good contact of Seattle Office, brought book to attention of SAC, Seattle, who advised Bureau by letter dated September 15, 1955. Author Gaddis has been engaged in social and probation work for Los Angeles County, Calif., since 1944. Bufiles reflect Internal Security-R investigation (never completed) during 1941-1942 on man believed identical with author. Bufile 62-75147-26-408 reflects Gaddis fired from position of deputy probation officer for Los Angeles County because of insubordination, conduct unbecoming a deputy probation officer and improper activities on official county time. Gaddis appealed to County Civil Service Commission, but on November 20, 1951, his dismissal was upheld.

The book concerns the life of Robert Stroud, a twice-convicted murderer, who has spent the last 46 years in prison, 39 of them in solitary confinement. For a period while incarcerated at Leavenworth Penitentiary, Stroud raised canaries in his cell. In reviewer's opinion, author is attempting to create sympathy for his subject.

Book makes several references to FBI. Innocuous references pages 211 and 294. On page 242 author states: "Alcatraz was in business and the FBI agent became a national hero. But while spectacular gangsters were broken, the larger gangs found substitutes for illegal liquor traffic, and deepened their merger with political machines." The latter sentence could be attempt to disparage work of FBI.

On page 247 author states Director visited Stroud in his cell at Leavenworth in 1936 and purchased a canary. Author states that although Stroud guaranteed to replace the bird if it did not sing, and actually did so, prison officials later circulated gossip that Stroud had sold the Director a painted sparrow.. Bufiles concerning Stroud make no mention of canary allegedly sold to the Director.

Finally, on page 306, author states that following the attempted prison break at Alcatraz in 1946, The FBI swept in to tie down criminal evidence for indictments of prisoners on conspiracy and first-degree murder. One by one, scores of convicts were raked out of their cells

50 OCT 18 1955

ULG:ulg (5)

RECORDED-12

INDEXED-12

OCT 1955

CRIM. REC. FILES

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Memorandum for Mr. Nichols

September 28, 1955

for grilling by Government agents."

Bufile 70-12090 reflects Bureau Agents interviewed inmates in position to witness any events of interest to investigation of attempted prison break. Technicians of FBI examined firearms and latent fingerprints and testified at subsequent trial of three convicts convicted of murder.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

W. J. Jones

✓

Memorandum for Mr. Nichols

September 28, 1955

The book "Birdman of Alcatraz, The Story of Robert Stroud," by Thomas E. Gaddis, was released recently by Random House, New York, New York. [redacted] a good contact of Seattle Office, brought book to attention of SAC who advised Bureau by letter dated September 15, 1955.

AUTHOR, THOMAS E. GADDIS

Thomas E. Gaddis, born in Denver, Colorado, was educated at St. Thomas Military Academy and the University of Minnesota. A resident of Los Angeles, California, since 1944, he has been actively engaged in social and probation work for Los Angeles County. Also active in the public-relations field, Mr. Gaddis was publicity director for the San Fernando Community Chest and for the American Red Cross in nine areas.

Holding a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota, Gaddis received a fellowship at the University of Iowa where he did graduate work and taught English. "Birdman of Alcatraz" is his first book. Mr. Gaddis has spent several years on the research and writing of this book. (From "About the Author" on the book jacket)

Bufiles reflect that Thomas Eugene Gaddis, believed identical with the author, was the subject of an Internal Security - R investigation originating at Omaha, Nebraska, during 1941-1942. It was alleged that Thomas E. Gaddis had made a false affidavit in executing WPA Form 608 (Affidavit Required by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act Fiscal Year 1941) to the Work Projects Administration, stating he was not a Communist. The investigation was not completed as subject Gaddis terminated his employment with WPA on July 3, 1941. (100-14752*)

A General Investigative Intelligence Report, Los Angeles Division, for the period July 1, 1951, to December 31, 1951, (62-75147-26-408) mentions one Thomas E. Gaddis on page 83. This report indicates that Thomas E. Gaddis, a deputy probation officer for Los Angeles County, was fired because of insubordination, conduct unbecoming a deputy probation officer and improper activities on official county time. Gaddis immediately petitioned the Superior Court to reinstate him, at the same time accusing [redacted] and other officers of "usurping power" to deprive him unjustly of his position. All the charges against Gaddis reportedly centered on his purported unethical association with [redacted], a probationer then serving time in the County Jail. It was charged that Gaddis had business dealings with [redacted] as well as social contacts on many occasions after [redacted] had been placed on probation and that all of these contacts were of a secret nature, unrecorded in official case records of the Probation Department.

The Los Angeles "Times" reported Farr's version of the alleged association with Gaddis, as issued in a statement from his jail cell, that he had been paid \$250 by Gaddis for "ghostwriting" material on

Memorandum for Mr. Nichols

September 28, 1955

probation activities in general. Farr also reportedly disclosed that at Gaddis' behest he made a report more or less critical of Zuck's administration. In November, 1951, the newspapers reported that Farr testified before the County Civil Service Commission, saying that he had been hired by Gaddis to work on a "public relations project" designed to discredit the County Probation Department administration.

On November 20, 1951, the County Civil Service Commission upheld [] dismissal of Gaddis as a deputy probation officer.

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b7C

THE BOOK

The book, "Birdman of Alcatraz," purports to be a "...true story of the prisoner with the longest record of solitary confinement in the United States—who became a leading authority on birds" - Robert Stroud. The author carries you through the entire life of his subject, Robert Stroud, from his birth, his childhood, his conviction for murder at the age of 18, and his subsequent imprisonment. Throughout the entire book, the author builds up a sympathetic appeal for his subject, who has spent the last 46 years in prison, 39 of them in solitary confinement. In 1916, having served nearly seven of his original twelve-year sentence, Stroud stabbed a prison guard. He was subsequently convicted and sentenced to hang; however, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by President Wilson. He subsequently became interested in raising canaries and later was permitted to raise them in his cell at Leavenworth.

In the reviewer's opinion, the author is attempting to put the worst possible light on the prison system and the law which keeps Robert Stroud in prison over all these years.

MENTION OF THE FBI

There are several references to the FBI and the Director, some of which may be construed as being critical. All references are set out in detail below:

On page 211, referring to the crime conditions of the 1930s, the author states: "The Department of Justice tightened its organization and struck out at the rampant underworld with the fist of the FBI."

On page 242, the author states: "Alcatraz was in business, and the FBI agent became a national hero." However, the author follows that sentence with: "But while spectacular gangsters were broken, the larger gangs found substitutes for illegal liquor traffic, and deepened their merger with political machines." This latter sentence could be

Memorandum for Mr. Nichols

September 28, 1955

an attempt on the part of the author to disparage the work of the FBI.

The author states on page 247 that the Director visited Stroud in his cell at Leavenworth in the late summer of 1936, at which time the Director allegedly purchased a canary for the sum of \$10. According to the author, Stroud told the Director that the bird was young and untried, but guaranteed to replace it if it didn't sing. Stroud sent the canary to the Director's mother, enclosing a letter in which he stated he would replace the bird if it was not in top condition. The author concludes this portion by saying: "Despite his efforts, Stroud heard that his bird had not performed, displeasing Mr. Hoover. Stroud replaced the ten-dollar bird with a twenty-five-dollar one. Years later, however, Stroud was nettled by gossip which he claimed prison officials were circulating 'nation-wide' from Washington: that he, The Birdman, had sold J. Edgar Hoover a painted sparrow for ten dollars. Stroud was more offended by this than by graver accusations. A painted sparrow! The convict never forgot the matter. Many years later he answered the 'libel and discredit' to his avian reputation by inserting his reply as 'Exhibit A' in a sworn court document."

Bufiles concerning Stroud make no mention of the canary allegedly sold to the Director.

Referring to the attempted prison break at Alcatraz in 1946, the author states on page 294 that Warden Johnson "...wired the Coast Guard, the San Francisco Police Department, the Army, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the FBI, press associations and San Francisco daily newspapers."

On page 306, he says; with reference to activities following the attempted break, "The Rock was shut tight under the angry scrutiny of trigger-conscious guards. The FBI swept in to tie down criminal evidence for indictments of prisoners on conspiracy and first-degree murder. One by one, scores of convicts were racked out of their cells for grilling by Government agents."

Bufile 70-12090 reflects Bureau Agents interviewed all inmates reported by Associate Warden to be in the cell houses and in a position to witness any events of interest to the investigation of the attempted prison break. In addition, technicians of the FBI conducted examinations of firearms, including guns and ammunition, and latent fingerprints, and FBI Agents testified at the subsequent trial of three of the convicts who were convicted of murder.

100-10000-22
February 20, 1956



Dear [redacted]:

Your letter dated February 7, 1956, has been received, and I am acknowledging it in Mr. Hoover's absence from the city.

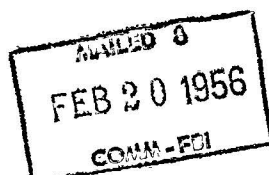
I must advise that this Bureau has no material available for distribution regarding Robert Stroud. I thought you might like to know that Mr. Hoover saw Robert Stroud in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and that Mr. Hoover did purchase a canary from him.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

NOTE: Bufile 62-25004 reflects the Director did purchase a canary from Stroud. Stroud is a twice-convicted murderer who has spent about 46 years in prison and who raised canaries in his cell. He was the subject of the book, "Bird Man of Alcatraz" by Thomas M. Gaddis.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
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Belmont _____
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Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____



CEM:jac

(3)

FEB 27 1956

[Redacted]
February 7, 1956

J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am interested in writing my term theme about Robert Stroud, now a prisoner at Alcatraz. While he was at Leavenworth, you purchased a canary from him. He was supposed to have experimented with his canaries.

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I fully realize you are a busy man and I appreciate that fact, but could you please send me any information you might have?

Thank you very much for as you are able to help me.

Yours truly,
[Redacted]

RECORDED - 19

INDEXED - 19

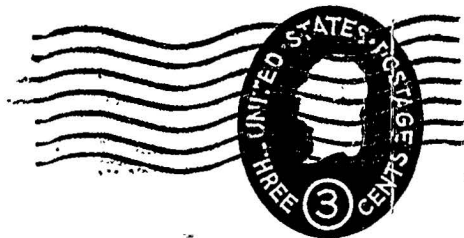
62-25004-99
FEB 21 1956

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CEM

EX-125

ORIGINAL
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27205 1



(PERSONAL)

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington
D.C.

SE-17

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III
Director, FBI

July 11, 1956

RECORDED 10-10-1

62-25004-23

ROBERT STROUD

Robert F. Stroud

Enclosed for your information is a copy of
an anonymous communication addressed to me concerning
the captioned individual.

Enclosure
cc: Mr. James V. Bennett (with copy of enclosure)
Director
Bureau of Prisons

JGL:dls
(5)

NOTE: Stroud is a twice convicted murderer who has
spent about 46 years in prison and who raised
canaries in jail.

- Tolson _____
- Nichols _____
- Boardman _____
- Belmont _____
- Mason _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

62-25004

MAILED 5
JUL 11 1956
COMM-FBI

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

July 3, 1956

Bureau files reflect that the Director saw Stroud in the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth in 1936 and purchased a canary from him. Stroud is a twice-convicted murderer who has spent about 46 years in prison and who raised canaries in his cell. He was the subject of the book "Bird Man of Alcatraz" by Thomas L. Gaddis.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

memo AAG 6/27/56
cc [redacted]
Re D. [redacted]
with Dec of anonymous letter to [redacted]
6-0

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Detroit, Michigan. June 30, 1956.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Sir;

It may be of of interest to you to have the following information.

The writer has been informed that Attorneys [redacted] and [redacted] of Sacramento Calif have filed a petition with the Clerk of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco on May 18, 1956 in behalf of their client Robert F. Stroud who is confined in Alcatraz Prison. The petition is for Injunctive Relief, Judicial Review and Declaratory Relief. The Respondents in this case are (The United States of America) P.J. Madigan Warden of Alcatraz, J.V. Bennett, Director of Federal Prisons. Herbert Brownell, Jr. U.S. Attorney General.

When this case comes before the United States District Court, I am certain it will be outstanding according to all the particulars contained in the petition, No. 35494.

The book recently published by Random-House entitled- (Birdman of Alcatraz) describes the life story of Mr. Stroud the world famous Canary Bird Doctor whom you met in Leavenworth some years ago. After all he has done in the interests of thousands upon thousands in more ways than one, they mastered the move and have kept this brilliant man in a lonely cell, all alone and has been treated worse than a stray mongrel dog. The late Frank Murphy whom you got to know pretty well, who was the Attorney General of the United States a few years ago referred to Alcatraz as a Hell hole.

As you well know, Alcatraz has been referred to as the Rock. It has not been rocked or even rolled recently, but I am informed and you have also that there is plenty of talk on the inside circles in Washington about this particular place. You may be sure that this particular Rock will roll in the near future.

Mr. Stroud has fought and shook the mighty, next he will start the real classic in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco with the Alcatraz Rock and Roll. I am sure that President Eisenhower will not like it, believe it or not. I will be anxious to ascertain what excuses or phoney remarks or stock replys J.V. Bennett will have to offer when he tries to defend himself in Court. Elvis Presley could strut across the stage wearing a ball and chain while the prison band played a few bars of the Prisoner song.

RECORDED-126

SEP 17 1956 - 23

I trust this info will be of passing interest. I understand that they intend to make this an international issue. Your friend Walter Winchell has been informed of this action.

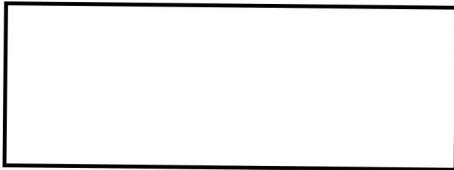
70 JUL 13 1956 Sincerely,

Anonymous

August 13, 1956

24

RECORDED 32
INDEXED 32



Dear

Aug 13 3 37 PM '56
RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

b6
b7C

Your letter postmarked August 2, 1956, has been received during Mr. Hoover's absence from the city, and I am acknowledging it for him.

In regard to your request, since the FBI has no authority to inject itself into matters involving parole and probation, I am making a copy of your letter available to the Parole Executive, Board of Parole, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

Although I know Mr. Hoover will sincerely appreciate your offer to send him the book entitled "Bird Man of Alcatraz" by Thomas Gaddis, I thought you might like to know that Mr. Hoover has this book in his library.

AUG 13 1956
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

Copy of incoming sent by form to Board of Parole

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Bufile 62-25004 reflects the Director did purchase a canary from Stroud. Stroud is a twice convicted murderer who has spent about 46 years in prison and who raised and studied canaries in his cell.

CEM:sak
(3)

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Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Mason _____
 Mr. Mohr _____

Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

b6
 b7C

Mr. John E. Hoover
 Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:-

Several months ago

[redacted] here in Los Angeles mentioned in his morning service that he had just finished reading a most gripping story about a prisoner at Alcatraz - Robert Stroud.

As I was interested, I bought the book next week and can corroborate statement. The book was written by Thomas [redacted]

Robert Stroud has been 46 years in prison, 39 in deep lock. He could have been paroled had his mother because of jealousy, not opposit. This seems incredible, nevertheless it is true.

How he through his wonderful mental acumen was able to study the diseases of canaries, and through his own research discovered the cure for diseases that ornithologists were unable to discern is astounding.

In fact I remember that he sold you a white canary for ten dollars, and wrote to your mother in [redacted] and that he heard that the bird had not performed and you were displeased. He then replaced the bird with a twenty five dollar one. There was [redacted]

ask 8-13-56
 CE 111
 copies 100
 8-7-56
 [initials]

RECORDED - 52

67-35004-24
 11 AUG 14 1956

OFFICE

for a parole if any one is.

When we think of all the men who have been traitors to our country, Hiss, and all the ones connected with these last years who never were incarcerated. White, Acheson, all the invisible government who are scheming to put us under one world government, and countless others whom you know who sold out China to the Reds - General Marshall etc.

The blood of every patriot boils to know what hundreds have done who have infiltrated our government and are being paid out of our taxes. Did you see the play "Thieves Paradise" in Washington?

Surely something can be done for this man who committed his acts in self defense, and has atoned for his guilt for acts by serving all these years in prison. Hiss served only a short time and is at large. Isn't he a risk?

This is a long letter, Mr. Hoover, ^{but} (and) I had to go into details.

May I hear from you if you have the time?

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature box]

Aug. 3-'56

Pardon me, I should have addressed J. Edgar Hoover.

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b7c

I believe that the white canary was a painted sparrow, which of course was untrue. The book made no further comment on the transaction.

Several Sundays ago, [redacted] spoke at our Sunday Service. He was here for two Sundays. When I knew that he was to be here, I wrote to him in regard to Robert Stroud, as the title of [redacted] book is "Love Can Open Prison Doors." He wrote to me that "The authorities will not release him because they hold him a poor risk." He said he had no real information about him except what he had heard and read. In his letter [redacted] enclosed a letter that is issued monthly from his home in Monrovia, Calif. The subject was "Talk to Yourself." His last sentence was "Across the miles our love and good wishes are flowing. Be of good cheer."

I wrote [redacted] a second letter and sent him Thomas Gaddis' book "The Bird Man of Alcatraz." My last sentence was, "Send your love across the Pacific to Alcatraz; and surely it can open prison bars as you say."

He wrote me a postal card. I quote - "This book is probably the best thing done on America's strangest case and most famous prisoner. I enjoyed it from beginning to end, and the background material has given me better insight in the Birdman's trouble. This brother has never given up. Thank you for letting me read it."

I was disappointed for I thought that he could do something. It was then since it is a Federal case that I thought of you. I would be glad to send you my copy of the book as I did to [redacted].

[redacted] It is authentic - Surely, Mr. Hoover, this man is eligible

[REDACTED]

Mr. John E. Hoover
Washington, D.C.

b6
b7C

My dear Mr. Hoover:-

Several months ago, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], mentioned in his morning service that he had just finished reading a most gripping story about a prisoner at Alcatraz - Robert Stroud.

As I was interested, I bought the book the next week and can corroborate [REDACTED] statement. The book was written by Thomas E. Gaddis.

Robert Stroud has been 46 years in prison, 39 in deep lock. He could have been paroled, had his mother because of jealousy not opposed it. This seems incredible, nevertheless it is true.

How he through his wonderful mental acumen was able to study the diseases of canaries, and through his own research discovered the cure for diseases that ornithologists were unable to discern is astounding. In fact I remember that he sold you a white canary for ten dollars, and wrote to your mother in regard to it, and that he heard that the bird had not performed and you were displeased. He then replaced the bird with a twenty five dollar one. There was gossip I believe that the white canary was a painted sparrow, which of course was untrue. The book made no further comment on the transaction.

Several Sundays ago, [REDACTED] spoke at our Sunday Service. He was here for two Sundays. When I knew that he was to be here, I wrote to him in regard to Robert Stroud, as the title of [REDACTED] book is "Love Can Open Prison Doors." He wrote to me that "the authorities will not release him because they hold him a poor risk" He said he had no real information about him except what he had heard and read. In his letter [REDACTED] enclosed a letter that is issued monthly from his home in Monrovia, Calif. The subject was "Talk to Yourself." His last sentence was Across the miles our love and good wishes are flowing. Be of good cheer."

I wrote [REDACTED] a second letter and sent him "Thomas Gaddis" book The Bird Man of Alcatraz. My last sentence was, Send your love across the Pacific to Alcatraz, and surely it can open prison bars as you say.

He wrote me a postal card- I quote- "This book is probably the best thing done on America's strangest case and most famous prisoner. I enjoyed it from beginning to end, and the background material has given me better insight in the Birdman's trouble. This brother has never given up. Thank you for letting me read it."

I was disappointed for I thought that he could do something. It was then, since it is a Federal case that I thought of you. I would be glad to send you my copy of the book as I did to Mr. Daily. It is authentic-

Surely, Mr. Hoover, this man is eligible for a parole if any one is.

✓ When we think of all the men who have been traitors to our country, Hiss, and all the ones connected with these last years who never were in carcerated. White, Acheson, all the invisible government who are scheming to put us under one world government, and countless others whom you know who sold out China to the Reds- General Marshall etc.

The blood of every patriot boils to know what hundreds have done who have infiltrated our government and are being paid out of our taxes. Did you see the play "Thieves Paradise" in Washington?

Surely something can be done for this man, who committed his acts in self defense, and has atoned for his guilt for acts by serving all these years in prison. Hiss served only a short time and is at large- Isn't he a risk?

but
This is a long letter, Mr. Hoover, (and) I had to go into details-

May I hear from you if you have the time?

Sincerely,

/s/

[Redacted Signature]

b6
b7C

Aug. 3-'56

Pardon me, I should have addressed J. Edgar Hoover.

LAW OFFICES
CARL L. SHIPLEY
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON 4, D. C.
STERLING 3-1648

February 13, 1957

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25
D. C.

W 10-1

Gentlemen:

I am counsel for All-Pets Magazine, Inc., and have been requested to check on the status of Robert Stroud, the "Bird Man of Alcatraz." As I understand it, he was engaged in the smuggling of psittacine birds and similar activities. I will appreciate any information you can give me concerning him. I understand that much of his activity is now a matter of public record.

With good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,



☐ plg

b6
b7C

RECORDED - 51

62-25004-25

13 FEB 26 1957

un-f
101, 2-25-57
del

CHAMP. REC.

RECORDED - 51
INDEXED - 51

February 25, 1957

b6
b7C

25



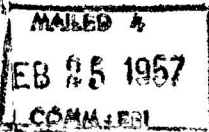
Dear 

Your letter dated February 13, 1957, has been received.

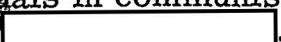
Although I would like to be of service, I am unable to furnish you information concerning the subject of your inquiry since data in our files is confidential and available for official use only. I am taking the liberty, however, of referring a copy of your letter to the Director, Bureau of Prisons, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C., for what aid he can offer you.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Copy of incoming sent by form to Bureau of Prisons.

NOTE: Robert Stroud is the prisoner who has been confined in Leavenworth and Alcatraz prisons for so many years and who has gained national prominence because of his hobby of raising canaries. Numerous references appear in Bufiles concerning correspondent, who is a prominent Washington, D. C., Attorney. He has been associated with several individuals in communist front organizations, and in 1953 he represented , subject of Bureau investigation under character of . Nothing to preclude forwarding acknowledgment.

Winchel

like to know if the [redacted] such a prisoner

as this post card states and if he is receiving this type of treatment. Thank you kindly.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Free
no action
10/16

Dear Mr. Winchell,

On SEP's aggrandizement of Hoodlum Mickey Cohen, an admitted killer, I ask why we all can't do something for prisoner Robt. Stroud "The Birdman of Alcatraz", doing 12nd. yr. solitary confinement "longer than any Federal prisoner in history" - a blot upon our penal system. How Free World must mock us! Author Thos. Gaddis wrote an epic, challenging, shattering book, the French have made introduction new law "The Law Robt. Stroud" to permit prisoners care of animals. The indomitable prisoner, no walking privileges, no birds, no radio, hasn't been allowed to read his book - a cent'd., savage, inhuman imprisonment - should be heard about not "little pimple!" Can't our Senator's buck Federal Prison Bureau? Maybe reader's could send contribution Stroud Committee - Beverly Hills, Attorney [redacted] **HELP!**

His man has not eaten
with other human since 1916

EX-128

REC- 77

24 OCT 10 1958

~~FOUR~~

OCT 17 1958

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

FROM : W. S. TAVEL *ST*

SUBJECT: ROBERT STROUD
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 10/7/58

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

In accordance with your request, I have reviewed files regarding Robert Stroud.

It was reported in 1941 that Stroud was convicted of manslaughter in 1912 at age 18 in Juneau, Alaska. He was transferred from McNeil Island, Washington, to Leavenworth in February 1922, and shortly thereafter murdered an inmate there, for which crime he was sentenced to hang. This sentence was reportedly later commuted by the President of the United States to life imprisonment in solitary confinement. It was further reported that, since about 1925, Stroud had been allowed to maintain a canary aviary next to his cell in Leavenworth and had a laboratory which had been furnished by friends in the outside world. Stroud was reported to be regarded as a nationwide authority on the subject of canaries and diseases of birds. He claimed to have copyrighted a book "Diseases of Canaries" in 1933.

A report of 1942 reflected that Stroud was commonly referred to as "The Bird Man" since he had been for years breeding canaries in the penitentiary which he was permitted to sell to persons outside. In December 1942, the officer who transported Stroud from Leavenworth to Alcatraz stated Stroud had claimed that he was making alcohol in his cell from sugar and fermented grain. Stroud allegedly recounted how he had shot five times and killed a man in Alaska and later had stabbed to death an inmate at Leavenworth.

Stroud was interviewed at Alcatraz in 1943, in connection with alleged irregularities in the prison and admitted having transmitted letters, documents and information out of Leavenworth Prison through illicit channels. A book entitled "Bird Man of Alcatraz, the Story of Robert Stroud," by Thomas E. Gaddis, and published by Random House, New York, in 1955, concerns the life of Stroud and indicates that he had at that time spent 46 years in prison, 39 of them in solitary confinement. On page 247, the author states that the Director visited Stroud in his cell in 1936 and purchased a canary. The Director noted on the memorandum setting out this information, "He did sell me a canary and it didn't sing."

This is the most recent reference to Stroud in Bureau files.

REC- 77

24 OCT 10 1958

WST:DMG

(2)

OCT 15 1958

THREE

67

It was indicated by a representative from the Bureau of Prisons, who attended in the absence of [redacted] that Robert Stroud, the notorious criminal who will have been incarcerated for 50 years this August following a murder of a man in Alaska, has now been transferred from Alcatraz to the prison medical center at Jefferson City, Missouri.

1
b6
b7C

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 62-771156-151

62-25004-
NOT RECORDED
141 JUL 27 1959

(Attorney General's
Staff Conference)
7/23/59 51 JUL 27 1959

TRUE COPY

173 So. Detroit St. L. A. 36.
Calif.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

Several weeks ago there was an article in the paper which stated that the Warden of the Federal prison at Springfield Mo. refused to give Mr. Robert Stroud the birthday cards which people had sent to him. The action of the Warden seemed to many in humane and unjust so I wrote to the governor and received this letter.

Is it not possible that something can be done to stop such cruel action? It seems that Mr. Stroud has paid the penalty for his crimes, if they were crimes, as. I believe in following the story. They were committed to protect himself.

His contribution to Ornithology has been wonderful and all lovers of birds can testify to that.

If this is not in your jurisdiction, would you put it in the hands of one who can do something for this man. When one knows of men in our government who have committed far more heinous crimes against our country his seem trivial.

Thank you for your help and suggestions.

Yours truly,

[Redacted Signature]

Feb. 17 '61

REC-64

1-ENCLOSURE

1-7c-pmk
2-24-61

b6
b7C



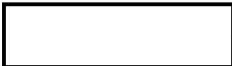
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

JOHN M. DALTON
GOVERNOR

February 14, 1961



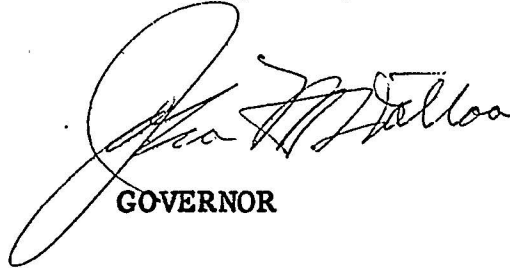
b6
b7C

Dear :

I have your letter regarding the action of the Warden of the Federal Prison Medical Center in refusing to permit birthday greeting cards to be sent to Robert Stroud.

The Medical Center is a Federal Prison operated by Federal authorities and the State government has no control over its operation.

Sincerely yours,


GOVERNOR

ENCLOSURE 62-25004-28

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.
Dear Mr. Hoover:-

b6
b7c

Several weeks ago
there was an article in the paper which
stated that the Warden of the Federal
Prison at Springfield Mo. refused
to give Mr. Robert Stroud the birth-
day cards which people had sent
to him. The action of the Warden seemed
to many in humane and unjust
so I wrote to the Governor and received

and this letter:

Is it not possible that something
can be done to stop such cruel

CORRESPONDENCE

(144 Stamp
letter)

1-15-61
2-24-61

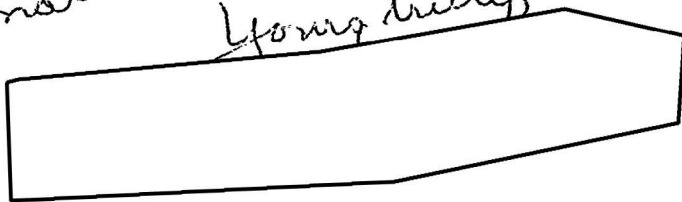
action? It seems that Mr. Stroud has paid the penalty for his crimes, if they were crimes, as I believe in following the story, they were committed to protect himself.

His contribution to Ornithology has been wonderful and all lovers of birds can testify to that.

If this is not in your jurisdiction, would you put it in the hands of one who can do something for this man. When one knows of men in our government who have committed far more heinous crimes against our country, his seem trivial.

Thank you for your help and suggestions.

Yours truly,



Feb. 17-'61

b6
b7C

February 27, 1961

6 - 28

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

Dear [Redacted]:

Your letter dated February 17, 1961, and enclosures have been received.

Although I would like to be of service, matters such as you described do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI. I am, however, forwarding a copy of your letter and a copy of the other communication you enclosed to the Director, Bureau of Prisons, United States Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C. Your enclosures are being returned.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (2)

Described in note below

NOTE: Correspondent enclosed, in addition to her letter from the Governor of Missouri, one four-cent stamp, both enclosures currently being returned. She is referring to Robert Stroud who has been given much publicity over the years for his knowledge of canaries and diseases of birds. He wrote a book entitled "Birdman of Alcatraz," published in 1955 which indicated that he had at that time spent 46 years in prison, 39 of them in solitary confinement. In this book he states that the Director visited him in his cell in 1936 and purchased a canary. The Director as noted stated, "He did sell me a canary and it didn't sing." Frequent citizens' letters are received concerning Stroud because of his book. He was transferred from Alcatraz to the Federal Prison Medical Center at Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1959. (62-25004)

Tolson _____
Parsons _____
Mohr _____
Belmont _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

50 MAR 6 1961

DCL:mb (3)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-26-62

FROM : Mr. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ"
THE STORY OF ROBERT STROUD
(MOTION PICTURE)

Tolson	_____
Belmont	✓
Mohr	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Malone	_____
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

A United Press International news release 4-25-62 discloses that above-captioned motion picture was to be shown in Washington that evening before a group of government officials, members of Congress and newsmen. The part of Stroud is played by actor Burt Lancaster. This news release indicates Stroud was first imprisoned in 1909 and has since become an expert on birds and bird diseases. Most of his imprisonment has been in solitary confinement. He is now confined at the Federal prison in Springfield, Missouri.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:*Robert Stroud*

Bufiles disclose that Stroud was convicted of manslaughter in 1912 at age 18, in Juneau, Alaska. In February, 1922, he was transferred to Leavenworth Penitentiary from McNeil Island, Washington. While there, he murdered an inmate and was sentenced to hang. This sentence was commuted by the President and then Attorney General Palmer ruled the life imprisonment of Stroud should be in solitary confinement.

Since 1925 Stroud has been allowed to maintain a canary aviary next to his cell, together with a laboratory furnished by friends from the outside. He has become a nationwide authority on the subject of canaries and bird diseases.

In December, 1942, the guard who transported Stroud from Leavenworth to Alcatraz advised that Stroud claimed to be making alcohol in his cell.

In 1943, Stroud was interviewed in connection with irregularities in Alcatraz and admitted having transmitted letters, documents and information out of prison through illicit channels.

In 1955 a book entitled "Birdman of Alcatraz, the Story of Robert Stroud" by Thomas E. Gaddis, was published by Random House, New York. Shortly

TFM: dgs
(3)MAY 8 1962
ENCLOSURE

EX-103

16 MAY 1 1962

REC- 23 62-25004-29
 (see 8. 12) OVER

Jones to DeLoach memo
RE: "Birdman of Alcatraz"
The Story of Robert Stroud

after its publication, this book (apparently the basis for the motion picture), was reviewed. The book made several references to the FBI of an innocuous nature. There is one mention, however, of Stroud having been visited by the Director in his cell at Leavenworth in 1936 when the Director purchased a canary from him. The author claimed that although Stroud guaranteed to replace this bird if it did not sing, prison officials later circulated gossip that Stroud had sold the Director a painted sparrow. The Director has commented regarding this statement to the effect, "He did sell me a canary and it didn't sing."

The book also discloses an attempted prison break at Alcatraz in 1946 and states "The FBI swept in to tie down criminal evidence for indictments of prisoners on conspiracy and first degree murder. One by one, scores of convicts were racked out of their cells for grilling by government agents." We did conduct an investigation at that time and many inmates were interviewed.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

TH
THE
WE WILL REVIEW MOVIE
WHEN IT IS RELEASED TO
PUBLIC. JONES ADVISED TO
FOLLOW
Desch ✓
GAC

Kennedy Rejects Plea For Alcatraz Bird Man

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy declared today that he could not "in good conscience" recommend a commutation of sentence for convict Robert Stroud, the 72-year-old "Bird Man of Alcatraz."

The Attorney General told The Star that a full report on Stroud's case was made to him and that the efforts of "many well-meaning persons" to obtain the elderly prisoner's release have received careful attention in the Department of Justice.

Asked to comment on the case, Mr. Kennedy stated the Parole Board, since 1937, has reviewed Stroud's record annually and has never seen fit to take favorable action.

Earlier today, at a press conference in the Statler-Hilton

here, Burt Lancaster, actor who plays the principal role in the upcoming film, "Bird Man of Alcatraz," said he sincerely feels that Stroud, who has spent 52 of his 72 years in Federal prisons, should be released.

The self-educated convict learned several languages while in prison and became a leading authority on birds. The film based on his life is to be released in July.

Mr. Lancaster, Stroud's attorney, Stanley Furman and Tom Gaddis, author of the book on which the movie was based, have joined force to secure the elderly bird expert's release.

At the age of 19, Stroud was convicted of killing a man in Alaska. Thirteen years later—in 1916—he killed a Leavenworth prison guard. His benefactors said he was kept in solitary confinement for 43 of the 52 years he has been in prison.

Mr. Lancaster and his associates said they believe James V. Bennett, the director of Federal prisons, has been a stumbling block in the campaign to free Stroud.

"I saw Mr. Bennett on one occasion only in 1956," Mr. Furman said, "and Mr. Bennett indicated his feeling was that a man earns his way into Alcatraz and has to earn his way out."

Stroud, after his transfer to a Federal penitentiary at Springfield, Mo., two years ago, wrote to Tom Gaddis, the author, and said he hoped the book "is a cell-out."

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Malone ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

Mohr

file 9-11
Espresso
Polish

MCT 6

162-25004-A
NOT RECORDED
199 MAY 3 1962

The Washington Post and Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star
New York Herald Tribune
New York Journal-American
New York Mirror
New York Daily News
New York Post
The New York Times
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
Date

57 MAY 7 1962

APR 26 1962

UPI-52

(MOVIE)

WASHINGTON--A PREVIEW OF A NEW MOTION PICTURE BASED ON THE LIFE OF A CONVICT WHO BECAME THE WORLD'S LEADING AUTHORITY ON BIRD DISEASES WILL BE SHOWN HERE TONIGHT BEFORE A GROUP OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND NEWSMEN.

THE FILM, "BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ," IS BASED ON THE LIFE AND PRISON RESEARCH OF ROBERT STROUD WHO HAS SPENT 53 OF HIS 72 YEARS BEHIND PRISON BARS.

STROUD WAS FIRST IMPRISONED IN 1905. EARLY IN HIS CONFINEMENT HE FOUND AN INJURED BIRD IN THE RECREATION YARD OF A PRISON. HE TREATED THE BIRD AND NURSED IT BACK TO HEALTH.

IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING, MUCH OF THE TIME SPENT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, STROUD BEGAN STUDYING BIRD DISEASES. HE IS NOW CONSIDERED THE FINAL AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT. STROUD IS NOW AN INMATE AT THE FEDERAL PRISON AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

PRESENT AT TONIGHT'S PREVIEW ALSO WILL BE ACTOR BURT LANCASTER WHO PLAYS THE PART OF STROUD IN THE UNITED ARTISTS FILM, PLUS A NUMBER OF HOLLYWOOD WRITERS AND PRODUCERS.

LANCASTER WILL HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT 12:30 A.M. TOMORROW (STATLER-HILTON) TO DISCUSS THE FILM.

4/25--GE1040A

62-25004-29

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 7-18-62

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ROBERT STROUD
"BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ"

Tolson ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Casper ☒
 Conrad ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Evans ☒
 Malone ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Sullivan ☒
 Tavel ☒
 Trotter ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Holmes ☒
 Gandy ☒

BACKGROUND:

In connection with the recent publicity given to Stroud's motion picture, "Birdman of Alcatraz," and the publicity about individuals who are interested in his release from Federal prison at Springfield, Missouri, the Director has asked for a summary on Stroud.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Robert Stroud at the age of 18 was convicted of manslaughter at Juneau, Alaska, in 1912. While incarcerated at Leavenworth Penitentiary in February, 1922, he murdered an inmate for which he was sentenced to hang. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by President Wilson, and the then Attorney General Palmer ruled the life imprisonment of Stroud should be in solitary confinement. Since approximately 1925, Stroud had been allowed to maintain a canary aviary next to his cell in Leavenworth and had a laboratory which had been furnished by friends in the outside world. He subsequently became recognized as a nationwide authority on the subject of canaries and bird diseases. He authored a book, "Diseases of Canaries," in 1933.

In December, 1942, the guard who transported Stroud from Leavenworth to Alcatraz stated that Stroud claimed to be making alcohol in his cell from fermented grain.

Stroud was interviewed in 1943 in connection with irregularities in Alcatraz and admitted having transmitted letters, documents and information out of prison through illicit channels.

In 1955, Random House, New York, published a book entitled "Birdman of Alcatraz, the Story of Robert Stroud." This book was reviewed and it was noted that there were several references to the FBI of an innocuous nature. With respect to a statement that Stroud was visited by the Director who purchased a canary from him with the guarantee it would be replaced if it did not sing, in addition to the gossip circulated among prison officials that Stroud had sold the Director a painted sparrow, the Director noted, "He did sell me a canary and it didn't sing."

1 - Mr. DeLoach

JMM:tmf

(5)

7 AUG 6

1962

ENCLOSURE

REC-59

EX-102

JUL 30 1962

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Jones to DeLoach Memo
Re: Robert Stroud

The book also referred to an attempted prison break at Alcatraz in 1946 and stated, "The FBI swept in to tie down criminal evidence for indictments of prisoners on conspiracy and first degree murder. One by one, scores of convicts were racked out of their cells for grilling by government agents." The FBI did conduct an investigation at that time and many inmates were interviewed. The book also revealed that up until 1955, he had spent 46 years in prison, 39 of them in solitary confinement.

The "Washington Evening Star" of 4-26-62 revealed that Attorney General Kennedy had been contacted by the Star about a commutation of Stroud's sentence. This occurred subsequent to a press conference in Washington in which Burt Lancaster, the actor who plays the role of Stroud in the film, "Birdman of Alcatraz," stated he felt that Stroud, who had spent 52 of his 72 years in Federal prison, should be released. Attorney General Kennedy stated he could not "in good conscience" recommend a commutation of Stroud's sentence. According to the Attorney General, a full report on Stroud's case was made to him and that the efforts of "many well-meaning persons" to obtain the elderly prisoner's release have received careful consideration in the Department of Justice. In commenting further on the case, Mr. Kennedy stated the Parole Board since 1937 has reviewed Stroud's record annually and has never seen fit to take favorable action. Mr. Lancaster and his associates said they believe James V. Bennett, the Director of Federal Prisons, has been a stumbling block in the campaign to free Stroud. Lancaster; Stroud's attorney, Stanley Furman; and Tom Gaddis, author of the book on which the film was based, according to the newspaper item, have joined forces to secure the release of Stroud. Furman stated he saw Mr. Bennett on one occasion in 1956. Bennett is alleged to have told Furman that "a man earns his way into Alcatraz and has to earn his way out."

Since its recent showing in Washington, Stroud's film, "Birdman of Alcatraz," has been greeted with mixed emotions. Naturally, the sob sister segment and the bleeding hearts are starting to generate interest in Stroud's release.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

G.H.C.

✓
It is manipulating the way
the sobbing sob-sisters
are beating up a rage in
behalf of Stroud.

That Birdman of Alcatraz Really Feathered His Nest

Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), as chairman of a Senate Judiciary subcommittee concerned with Federal penitentiaries, has interested himself in the case of Robert F. Stroud, the "Birdman of Alcatraz." The following is based on official records, court proceedings and other data known to Sen. Long. Much of it was never before available to other writers on the subject.

(First of a Series)

By Eve Edstrom

Staff Reporter

ROBERT FRANKLIN STROUD got 12 years for shooting the bartender who welched on the \$10 price that prostitute Kitty O'Brien usually received.

That happened in 1909 in Alaska. From that day to this, for more than half a century, Stroud has been in Federal custody.

His life behind bars spans the evolution of the Nation's prison system. When he was convicted at the age of 19, prison guards carried clubs and prisoners wore stripes, ate in silence and were shackled to cell bars as punishment.

Federal Prison Director James V. Bennett succeeded in changing all that—but he never has succeeded in changing Stroud, now 72 and still at war with his keepers.

To Federal authorities, Stroud is known as the most cunning and cantankerous prisoner ever to be their guest. To the public, Stroud is known as the "Birdman of Alcatraz," a self-educated scientist who achieved a world-wide reputation for his painstaking research on the diseases of birds.

Two Views of Killing

FOR DECADES now, bird lovers have insisted that Stroud should be freed from his own caged existence. Currently, a new effort is under way timed to coincide with the release of a motion picture purportedly based on Stroud's life.

In the public mind, Stroud's work is proof of his rehabilitation. He has won a sympathetic following because of his apparent concern over the welfare of birds. In his book, "Stroud's Digest of the Diseases of Birds," he wrote:

"The lives of literally thousands of birds, the heartbreak of hundreds of blasted hopes have gone into these pages . . . For every truth, I have blundered through a hundred errors. I have killed birds when it was almost as hard as killing one's children . . . I have dedicated my book to the proposition that fewer birds shall suffer because their diseases are not understood."

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Malone ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

NOT RECORDED
176 JUL 24 1962

The Washington Post and Times Herald ☒ **E5**
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star _____
New York Herald Tribune _____
New York Journal-American _____
New York Mirror _____
New York Daily News _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
Date _____

JUL 15 1962

50 JUL 20 1962
327

Tolson ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Mohr _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Evans _____
 Malone _____
 Rosen ☒
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

Father Clark Will Aid Stroud Freedom Fight

THE REVEREND CHARLES DISMAS CLARK, S. J., has revealed that he and his longtime associate, attorney Morris Schenker, have joined the legal battle to free Robert Stroud, who has spent 53 of his 73 years in federal prisons. Father Clark said he is prepared to offer Stroud food, clothing, shelter and medical care when he is released from his present prison, the Federal Medical Center at Springfield, Missouri.

The Jesuit priest and Mr. Schenker achieved international fame as the founders of Dismas House in St. Louis where thousands of homeless ex-convicts have found a home.

Penitentiaries, asking for Stroud's release.

"We may now even ask for a new trial for Stroud," said Father Clark, who indicated that his interest in the case had been reawakened by newspaper, television and other reports about the new motion picture, "Bird Man of Alcatraz," based on the story of Stroud.

Burt Lancaster, who starred

as Stroud, has been touring the country with Thomas E. Caddis, author of the book on which the film is based, and Stanley Furman, Stroud's lawyer.

Reminded that Stroud is serving a life term for two murders, Father Clark said he has faith in Stroud as a human being and would very much like to see the aged man free.

Let me have summary on Stroud.

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A Different Breed of Bird-II

Stroud Says Mother Ruined**Life She Helped Save**

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Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), as chairman of a Judiciary Subcommittee concerned with Federal penitentiaries, has interested himself in the case of Robert F. Stroud, the "Birdman of Alcatraz." The following is based on official records, court proceedings and other data known to Senator Long. Much of it was never before available to writers.

Second in a Series

By Eve Edstrom
 Staff Reporter

It was largely through the efforts of his mother that Robert Franklin Stroud, now known as the "Birdman of Alcatraz," didn't hang on April 23, 1920 for killing a Leavenworth Penitentiary guard.

But to this day the 72-year-old Stroud expresses extreme bitterness against his mother, blaming her for the events which have caused him to be a Federal prisoner for 53 years.

"My every thought was tempered by her teachings and

prejudices and my life was a series of disasters," he once said. "I was taught to hate my father before I was two years old."

Stroud was born Jan. 28, 1890 in a middle-class residential neighborhood in Seattle.

Departure from Home

Constant bickering between his parents, he has said, kept him in "such a state" that he was unable to make any progress in school. His mother's "continual domination" made it "impossible for me to develop the spirit of give and take so necessary for success in later life."

Stroud has given various accounts of the events which triggered his departure from home at age 13. He related, on one occasion, that in his 13th year he "attempted to murder my father and declared my complete emancipation from parental authority of any kind."

At another time he said his parents had separated, leaving him with his mother, two

older stepsisters and a younger brother.

"I was at an age when a boy most needs the direction and guidance of a wise father and I found myself dominated by three women in a household where petty bickering had become a habit. Naturally I cut from under as soon as I was big enough."

Always good with his hands, particularly around machinery, he picked up odd jobs as he hoboed about the United States. Finally, in 1907 when he was 17, he went to Alaska to take part in the railroad building boom.

Distorted Accounts

Stroud's record shows he worked as a real estate salesman, peanut vendor and cook, was convicted of larceny in Katalla, Alaska, and then went to Juneau. There, on Aug. 23, 1909, he was sentenced in the United States District Court to a term of 12 years for manslaughter.

Over the years flagrantly distorted accounts of Stroud's offense have been churned out

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by those who have sought to free him. Stroud's victim has been pictured as a "burly Yukon miner" who violated Stroud's "first, last and only love."

Another version, attributed to Stroud's mother during her efforts to free him, suggests that Stroud "just away from a sheltered home" was the victim of a "bad woman of the dance halls."

"My poor boy, infatuated with her, under her influence but chivalrous and brave, pleaded guilty to save her," Stroud's mother was quoted in a widely reprinted article.

But official reports of Stroud's offense state:

"This man (Stroud) . . . started pimping for a woman of the streets who was addicted to the use of dope. This woman was much older than Stroud and of a very low type, even for that sort of woman . . ."

The woman, Kitty O'Brien, reportedly told Stroud she had been abused by a local bartender who "only paid her \$2 whereas the usual and cus-

tomary fee was \$10." Stroud then went to the bartender's home and shot him. When found, the bartender's "pantaloon pockets were turned inside out and what money he was supposed to have had was gone."

No Sign of Struggle

"Nothing about the room would indicate that there had been any struggle," the U. S. Commissioner reported. ". . . It is quite likely that Stroud would never have surrendered himself . . . had he not known he was recognized when coming out of (the) house."

On Aug. 30, 1909, Stroud arrived at the Federal Penitentiary at McNeil Island, Wash. McNeil was typical of the prisons of its day. Convicts wore stripes, were served meals from food-splattered buckets and were sent to the "hole" if they got out of line.

But it was at McNeil, tough as it was, that Stroud embarked on his long career of attempting to break prison rules. He wanted a fellow inmate, who worked as a hos-

pital orderly, to obtain drugs for him. The orderly told prison officials and Stroud "carved" him up for "snitching."

Just before the noon meal on Nov. 1, 1911, Stroud attacked the orderly "without warning . . . striking him in the back with a knife." As the victim attempted to run the length of the dining room aisle, Stroud gave chase and inflicted seven stab wounds before guards disarmed him. Subsequently, the warden reported that Stroud regretted that he had been "unsuccessful" in the effort to kill the stool pigeon.

Stroud was tried for the assault and sentenced to a six-month term consecutive to the 12-year sentence imposed in Alaska. Federal authorities decided to take no more chances with Stroud. On Sept. 5, 1912, he was shipped to one of the "hard joints," the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

Tuesday: Stroud kills Leavenworth prison guard.

But Stroud—after plunging a knife through the heart of a prison guard—also is the author of this passage:

"The guard took sick and died all of a sudden—He died of heart trouble—I guess you would call it a puncture, of the heart—Anyhow there was a knife hole in it—I have never given any reason for doing it so they won't have much to work on only that I killed him and that won't do much good for I will admit that."

Welcome Isolation

FOR THAT MURDER—the killing of guard Andrew F. Turner before 1200 inmates at the Leavenworth Penitentiary March 26, 1916—Stroud went on trial for his life. He was sentenced to be hanged and the gallows were being built when President Woodrow Wilson commuted his sentence to life.

Considered too dangerous to be mixed with the general prison population, Stroud was placed in segregated quarters where he was to remain for most of his adult life. Subsequently, Stroud's supporters viewed this as cruel and inhumane punishment. Actually, segregation was tailor-made for Stroud's purposes.

Back in the 1920s, it was not unusual for a prisoner, especially a lifetermer, to keep one or two canaries in his cell. Prison industries were not organized then and there was no emphasis on rehabilitation through academic learning. Wardens welcomed any diversion to keep inmates from going "stir crazy."

However, it was highly unusual for a prisoner to raise as many as 300 canaries at one time, to be given a second connecting cell for an aviary, to accumulate one-half ton of equipment, to operate a canary breeding business for the sale of birds to the general public and to correspond with 2000 bird owners and breeders.

Stroud did all these things. In addition, he used scraps of glass and metal to make scientific equipment such as a microtome capable of slicing tissue to 1/12,000th of an inch.

Distillery as a Sideline

BUT STROUD'S work was not just for birds and bird lovers. When his cell finally was shaken down by experts, it was discovered that his bird paraphernalia hid a home-made still which was turning out 188 proof alcohol.

In addition to moonshining, a letter-smuggling operation was conducted from his cell. Letters were shipped out in birdcages.

It was for violations such as these—in addition to espousing homosexuality—that Stroud earned the reputation as a prisoner who could not be trusted, who was not rehabilitated even though he had some scientific accomplishments to his credit.

Long before prison gates shut on Stroud, he was a nonconformist. He quit school at the end of the third grade "because I was learning nothing." He fled his Seattle home at age 13 because "home life was an awful pain in the neck."

During his childhood, his personality was a paradox. He was "considered very timid," a child who "hated trouble," one who "would walk blocks to keep from having to offend anybody." Yet he was "continually having trouble and serious trouble. Somebody was always getting hurt."

On one occasion when his father knocked him down, he reportedly "came up out of the dirt with a rock in each hand. The first one hit him in the chest hard enough to break two ribs. He treated me with respect after that."

Precocious Misanthrope

HE HATED his father before he was two and considered his mother a "veritable Agrippina," the mother of Nero who was so possessive that Nero finally arranged for her murder.

He never had a meaningful, lasting relationship with any individual. Although he once was close to his younger brother Marc, he ultimately turned on him for bungling his affairs and berated Marc for being on the outside during "the 10 most prosperous years this Nation has ever had, yet you are not a millionaire."

Stroud "married" as he did everything else—to gain personal publicity and to show his superiority over others by finding a way to do something that could not be done.

"Can't is a strange little word," he once wrote. "Many persons fall on their faces in Oriental obeisance at its merest mention . . . To some, it is a refuge from the futility of their existence; to others, it is an alibi, a sop to their conscience . . ."

"To me, it has always been like the flag is supposed to react on a bull; whenever anyone says 'can't' to me, I ask myself: 'Why and why not?' . . . For regardless of the proposition, one usually can if one wants to."

And so when it looked as if prison officials were going to put a halt to Stroud's bird business and transfer him from Leavenworth to Alcatraz, Stroud took himself a "bride."

AFTER DETERMINING that Leavenworth was part of the Louisiana Purchase Territory and that Congress had enacted no marriage laws for the reservation, Stroud maintained that the 1803 Treaty of Paris, recognizing marriages entered into by the signing of a simple contract, was still in effect. He drew up a contract which was signed by himself and his business partner on the outside, Della Mae Jones. She filed it with the Probate Court in Leavenworth and the Federal Court in Topeka.

The Justice Department refused to recognize the validity of the marriage and Della's name was removed from the list of Stroud's approved correspondents. But she visited enough newspaper offices with the marriage contract to start a new public clamor for Stroud's release and to gain him permission to conduct his business as usual.

Stroud always had a compulsive need to do the big thing. He could never achieve this on the outside. Although he went to Alaska to participate in the railroad-building boom, he wound up as a peanut vendor, cook and pimp.

But in prison, Stroud flourished. Although he had only a third grade education when he entered prison, he took courses which showed he was operating at a college level. He had a verbal intelligence quotient of 139 and an overall rating of 130.

Appalled by his own lack of know-

ledge, he took courses in English and taught himself to use an old typewriter which he had acquired. He studied astronomy, bacteriology, biology, chemistry, the classics, the French, Italian, Latin and Spanish languages, mathematics, ornithology and pharmacology.

Birdseed, Etc.

AS HE BEGAN raising birds, his demands upon prison officials were endless. The public thought that all Stroud wanted was "a little bit of birdseed." Actually, on one occasion, a partial list of his "requirements" included:

Seed—rope, hemp, canary and tonic—in 100-pound lots; mineral food, cuttle bone, disinfectant, insecticides, louse powder, sodium Fluoride, sodium perborate; cotton, cups, wire, sheet steel, glue, nails, paint; typewriter supplies; green food for birds in winter; fresh eggs for them the year around but especially during the breeding season; new stock; meal worms; bacteriological glassware, including test tubes, baker's funnels and thermometers, and materials for making and testing cultures.

Whenever Stroud didn't get his way, he complained to Washington. One complaint, forwarded to the Attorney General, accused the prison administration of refusing him an adequate supply of mouth wash and adhesive tape. Questioned about this, Leavenworth's warden replied:

"He wants the (mouth wash) solution by the gallon. In fact, he has been using it in connection with his bird-raising. He wants adhesive tape by the roll, which he has been using to paste boxes together.

"He has been furnished a reasonable amount of adhesive tape to be used in case of skin abrasions but not sufficient to make boxes. He has been furnished a 6-ounce bottle of . . . solution as a mouth wash but not sufficient to disinfect his bird cages."

A Romantic Conceit

AS STROUD began to conduct research into the causes of bird diseases and to publish his findings in bird journals, his ego knew no bounds. He likened himself to the Count of Monte Cristo, declaring that his "trials, triumphs and unbelievable accomplishments" outstripped those of the fictional hero. On other occasions, he likened himself to Columbus and to Louis Pasteur in suggesting that his original discoveries matched theirs.

Stroud went so far as to demand that prison officials sign an agreement governing his activities and living arrangements while in custody. He wanted 500 square feet of floor space, "divorced from the regular prison routine" but preferably "on our side of the walls" and a special mailbox number "to be paid for by me and to appear on my stationery and in my advertising."

Stroud also wanted a prison employee—college educated, not lazy, of pleasant disposition and inquiring mind—to be assigned to him to conduct his business affairs. In explaining this request, Stroud noted that many excellent men were in the employ of the prison system but were wasting their talents "on jobs fit for morons."

"Why not give one of them a break?" he asked. "Put him in complete charge of me and my affairs . . . raising his pay to \$2000 a year. I will pay his wages and raise them some more the minute the business justifies it . . . I'll admit that this has never been done. That is why it is good. Big men do not follow precedents; they create them."

Needless to say, Stroud's scheme was not adopted. He proposed it just after he had become eligible for parole in 1937 but was turned down. Each year since then, his case has been reviewed and parole has been denied.

Own Parole Terms

STROUD'S supporters insist that the Birdman's failure to win his freedom is the result of a personal vendetta against him by Federal prison officials. Actually, Stroud is a problem inherited by the Federal Bureau of Prisons when it was organized in 1930.

Its mandate from Congress was clear. It was to end prison abuses and begin a pioneering effort to rehabilitate prisoners. But Stroud has consistently resisted every attempt to return him to the general prison population as the first step toward giving him his release. He fights any change that would deprive him of his bird empire.

And just as he has wanted prison on his own terms, he wants to set the conditions of his parole. He does not believe, for example, that traveling restrictions should be placed upon him. And in recent years he has expressed unwillingness to accept an offer of a home and a job caring for birds if parole were granted.

"I have spent years of my life with birds and this man imagines that I would enjoy taking care of a flock of birds—which at my age is not the case," he has written. "That, to me, was always the most drudging chore, one that I was willing to undertake only because it was one avenue open to me, and they were my birds.

"I most certainly would never accept such employment from anyone else . . . If that is the kind of strings they are trying to tie on me, I think the wise thing to do will be to keep on fighting right from where we are rather than try to make pleasing concessions . . . to appease others."

If there is one consistent factor about Stroud's life, it is that he always has refused to make any concessions.

"I have never been conquered. I never will be conquered," he has said.

So prison has been his home for 53 years.

NEXT: The Birdman's Early Life

Announcing
Stroud's Digest on the Diseases of Birds
 By **ROBERT STROUD**

America's foremost authority on avian therapeutics
 We are now accepting advance orders for STROUD'S DIGEST, the most remarkable treatise on bird diseases ever attempted. The work is now in the hands of the printer. Delivery within 90 days guaranteed. Your remittance now will make this possible.

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This work contains a complete report of the Robert Stroud original researches, and it has been his ambition to so arrange this material that the most inexperienced breeder, observing a single symptom or lesion in a sick bird can, by mean of the cross references, trace down the disease, make an accurate diagnosis and learn all that is known about that particular disease in a matter of minutes.

Appendix gives information on the doses of drugs; the examination of the blood; the preparation of tissue; the shipment of bodies; and pathological technique. One authority, after examining the manuscript, said: "This is not a single book; it is a multitude of books; it is a complete symposium of medical science as applied to bird diseases, brought within the grasp of the ordinary person. No bird breeder or poultryman can possibly afford to be without it."

DON'T LET YOUR BIRDS DIE—ORDER NOW!

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L. G. MARCUS, Agent for Robert Stroud

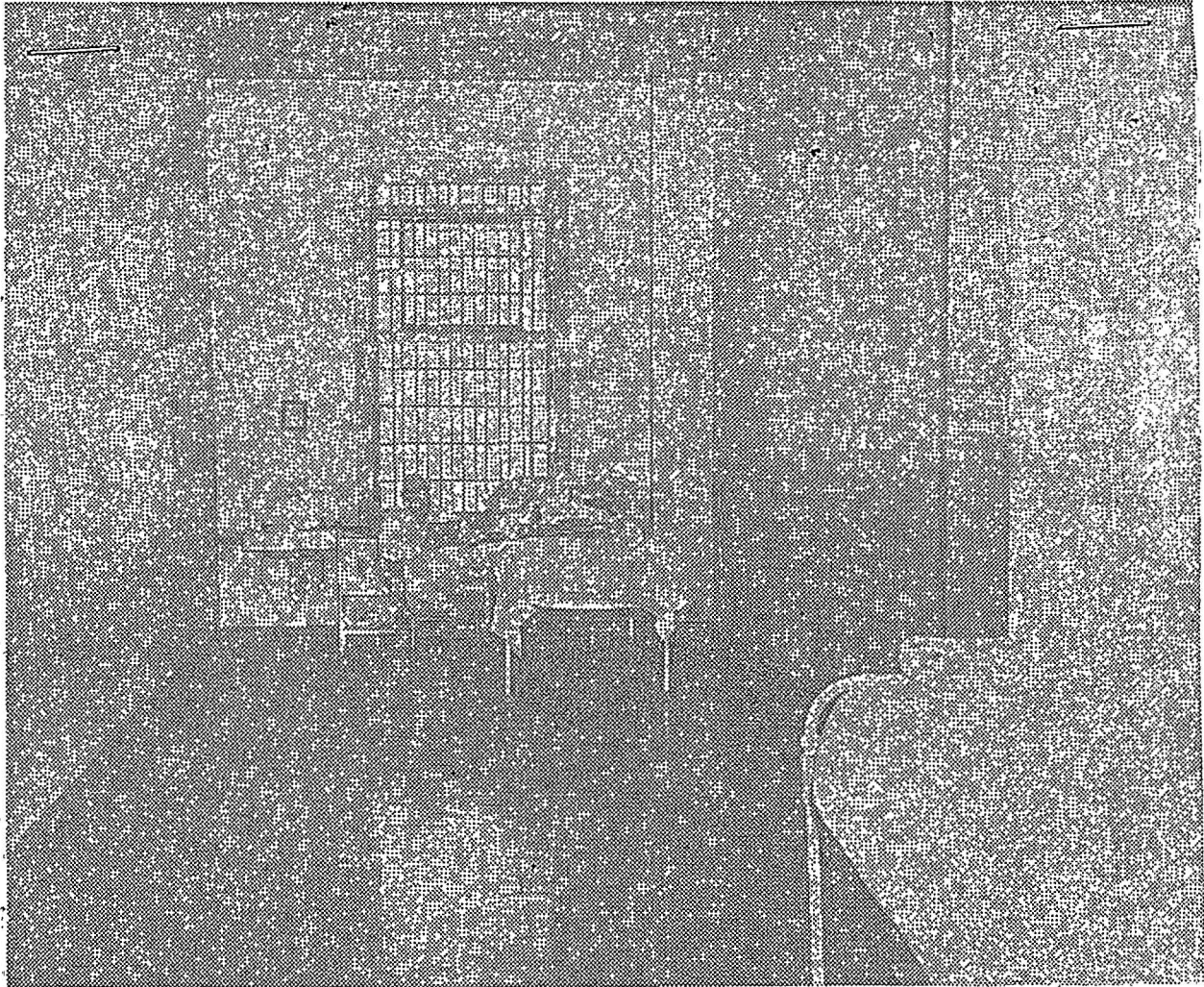
3810 West 46th Street

Minneapolis, Minnesota

A Stroud ad for his bird book from the February, 1943, American Canary Magazine. It calls him "the most unusual researcher the world has produced since Louis Pasteur."



Stroud (left) being taken to Federal District Court at Kansas City by two officers recently for the latest of his many hearings.



The only known picture of Robert F. Stroud in his hospital ward at Alcatraz. It was a large (35 feet by 12 feet 8 inches) room with a 12-foot ceil-

ing and a view of San Francisco. He was given two beds and usually kept one in front of the window for lounging, as in this picture.

How the Hidden Life of the Astonishing

**"No More Birdseed!" Rative Order
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Mrs. E. L. Stroud, of Kansas City, Missouri, shown with one of her son's bird cages. She spent \$10,000 in saving him from the gallows. He was put in solitary—then proceeded to support her by raising fine canaries. Now he must give up his hobby—and her support—because of a new prison rule.

TWENTY-THREE years ago, in a barroom in Juneau, Alaska, a whicky and soda. At a table nearby sat a dark-haired woman, not young, not particularly attractive, certainly not unaccustomed to unchivalrous advances. At another table sat Robert Stroud, a youth of twenty,

"Occasionally bird fanciers would stop at the Kansas City address where Mrs. Stroud lived and ask for Mr. Stroud. She would simply answer that her son was not at home. No bird fancier ever learned his secret."

It enabled him to do something for the mother who had spent her last cent to save him from execution—and it also enabled him to cheat the sinister spectre of impending madness. By his application to work, Stroud felt that



PROUD OF HIM.

Mrs. E. L. Stroud shown with some of the keeps in her home. The birds were raised by Robert Stroud, in the cell in which he has solitary confinement for 16 years. He has too. Sketch above, at right, gives an artist's view of the prisoner.

them. He fed them with crumbs from his prison meals and they lived. He trained them that at his command they would lie on their backs and "play dead."

In Stroud, these sparrows awakened his old boyhood love for pets. Finally the warden permitted him to get a canary. A year later the canary was given a mate. Stroud was delighted. The prison rules gradually yielded to a liberal interpretation so that Stroud might have materials to make cages. This he did, industriously.

In the natural course of events, there were little canaries. After the first lot were hatched there was another lot, then another. Soon there were three solid rows of cages, each containing a pair of healthy songsters, extending completely around the cell. These were excellent birds, well taken care of, well-bred. Mrs. Stroud, be-

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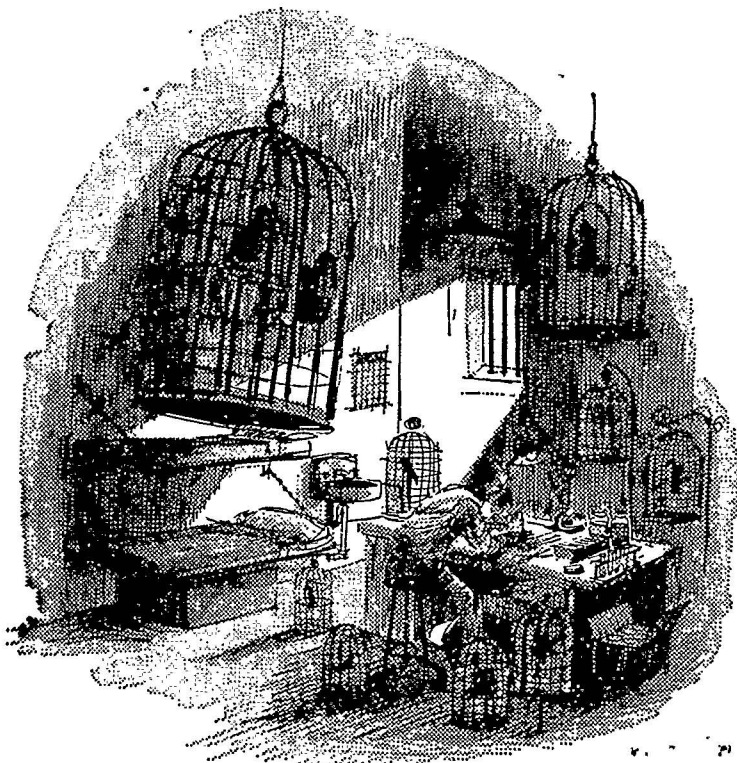
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A 1931 Sunday supplement spread on Stroud and his canaries, t

Coming Sunday

SHOULD "THE BIRDMAN" BE FREED?

a 7-part series by staff reporter Eve Edstrom



Should Robert F. Stroud, better known as "The Birdman of Alcatraz," be allowed to go free after spending more than half a century behind prison walls? Public opinion sways in favor of Stroud who once made amazing strides in discovering cures for the diseases of birds. A sympathetic portrayal of his life has been made into a motion picture.

Yet, Federal authorities agree that Stroud is where he belongs. Minus sensationalism and sentimentality, Eve Edstrom describes Stroud's actual behavior in this revealing series of articles starting Sunday in Outlook.

The Washington Post

For home delivery
Phone RE. 7-1234

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Malone ☒
Rosen ☒
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Tele Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

7/11/62

File 8/1/62

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but not sur-
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from the Post.

The Washington Post and Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star

New York Herald Tribune

New York Journal-American

New York Mirror

New York Daily News

New York Post

The New York Times

The Worker

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

Date

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REC-1 62-25004-33 October 10, 1962

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of October 2nd has been received.

While I appreciate your interest in writing to me, I regret that I cannot be of assistance. It has always been my policy to refrain from becoming involved in matters which are not within the jurisdiction or scope of responsibility of the FBI. I hope you understand the reasons for this policy.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE: We have had previous correspondence with [Redacted] She was sent an in-absence letter over Miss Gandy's signature on August 13th in which she was provided material to assist in writing an article about the Bureau. For this reason she is being sent a direct declination rather than an in-absence letter at this time. Robert Stroud, for whom correspondent is attempting to solicit aid, is a convicted murderer recently transferred from Alcatraz prison to a less severe institution, who because of his personal attitudes and assaultive record has never been given consideration or encouragement relative to release from prison despite numerous citizen's efforts to secure sympathy for him.

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Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TRUE COPY

October 2, 1962

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I hate to bother you, as I realize how extremely busy you are, but what I'm writing about is very important to me and a group of my friends.

We have been sent information about getting Robert Stroud realased, and also got a petition from the "Committee to free Robert Stroud." It suggested that if many people would write to the high officials that when his final plea for release comes up before President Kennedy it would possibly be of help to him.

I wrote to the President and one of my associates wrote to the Attorney General. Please help us Mr. Hoover, I told my friends that I'd written to you before and would do so again.

Mr. Stroud is not a bad man, you can see this for yourself by reading about his bird study. He is in a good mental state of mind and deserves to be free.

I ask you again, Mr. Hoover, please open your heart and help us to help him get his freedom.

Please write back to me if you find the time and please act soon as his time is running out fast.

On behalf of my fellow associates I would like to thank you in advance for the attention I'm sure you will give Mr. Stroud.

Sincerely yours,

/s/



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October 2, 1962

Dear Mr. Hoover,

AB I hate to bother you, as I realize how extremely busy you are, but what I'm writing about is very important to me and a group of my friends.

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REC- 47

62-24-32

September 6, 1962



Dear



Your letter of September 1st has been received in

Mr. Hoover's absence from Washington. I know that he will be appreciative of your interest in writing him.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

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FBI
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NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Correspondent refers to Robert Stroud, convicted murderer, who has consistently been given no encouragement or leniency relative to release in view of his background and personal attitudes, despite numerous citizens' efforts to secure sympathy for him. The Director did visit Stroud at one time years ago when previously confined in the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth.

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MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TRUE COPY
September 1, 1962



Sir:

I have just finished reading a book called "Birdman of Alcatraz." I have read that in 1936 you visited one Robert Stroud known as the "birdman" of Alcatraz. I wondered if you would give me your first hand impression of Mr. Stroud.

b6
b7C

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely yours



1 T.C.
9-5-62
made
ack 9-6-62
DCL/pcf

gal
~~8-1-62~~

September 4, 1962

Sir:

I have just finished reading a book called "Birdman of Alcatraz". I have read that in 1936 you visited one Robert Stroud known as the "Birdman" of Alcatraz. I wondered if you would give me your first hand impression of Mr. Stroud. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely yours

REC-47

62-25004-32

EX-115

5 SEP 4 1962

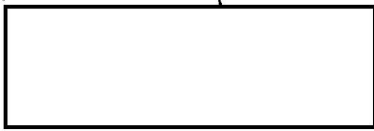
COPIED
100-45-1000mmc
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mab

February 28, 1963

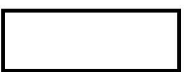
EX-115

REC-50

62-55-1-34



b6
b7C

Dear 

Your letter of February 20, 1963, has been received.

Although I would like to be of service, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only.

You may desire to consult available references in your local library for possible data regarding the individual you mentioned. I have also referred a copy of your letter to the Bureau of Prisons, United States Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C., for what assistance that Department can offer you.

MAILED 30
FEB 28 1963
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEB 28 2 05 PM '63

NOTE: Miss Post is not identifiable in Bufiles. Robert Stroud, author of the book "Birdman of Alcatraz" from which the recent movie was made has been in prison since 1912. Stroud was 18 years old when first convicted of Manslaughter. Stroud is well known as a result of the recent movie.

SAW:mlh (3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

FEB 28 4 19 PM '63
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

February 20, 1963

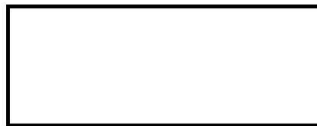
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs

I have just seen the movie "Birdman of Alcatraz" refering to the life of Robert Stroud. I am very much interested in this man and would appreciate it very much if you would send me any and all information you have on this man or might direct me to somewhere where I might obtain this information.

Thank You.

Sincerely yours



dlp

REC- 50

62-25007-34

17 MAR 1 1963

EX-115

Don't know

b6
b7C

Ack 28
2-27-63
SAWILY mail

ml

RA

November 9, 1965

REC-19
62-25004-35

EX-117

[Redacted]

NOV 9 1 31 PM '65
FBI
FBI - READING ROOM

b6
b7C

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of October 30th has been received and I want to thank you for your confidence in my administration of the FBI.

With respect to your inquiry, it is suggested you may wish to write to the Bureau of Prisons, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20537, for much of the data you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

[Handwritten signature]

MAILED 10
NOV 9 1965
COMM-FBI

1 - Seattle - Enclosure

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Stroud's book, "Birdman of Alcatraz," noted that Mr. Hoover visited his cell in 1936 and bought a canary which was guaranteed to sing. With respect to this, on a memorandum in 1955, Mr. Hoover noted "he did sell me a canary and it didn't sing."

[Handwritten signature]

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- DeLoach _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

DTP:mel (4)

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten checkmark]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[Handwritten text]



October 20, 1965

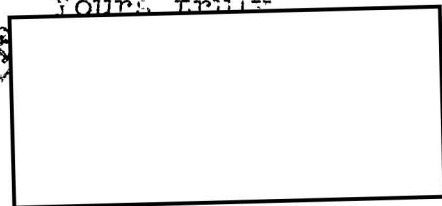
Dear Mr. Hoover;

As you can tell I am attending Washington State University. We have been given the job of psycho-analysing a person. My assignment was that of Hobbs

Stroud and the reason for this letter. Would it be possible to obtain photo copies of his prison record?

Also, it was stated that you met this man at one time, what was your opinion of him? Was he an ordinary prisoner that through publicity was explored, or an exceptional person? I'm not interested in why isolation etc. I want to know his personality and his different reactions. I'm working on a theory of people under restrained areas.... be it prisons, civil defense shelters etc. Thank you for any help you can give me and keep up the good work.

Yours truly



REC-19

62-25004-35

EX-117

NOV 4 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

ACK 11-8-65
DTP:kep/mcd

EXP. PROC.
39 NOV 4 1965

b6
b7C

317



62-15000-36

LINE 1

Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 26, 1969
eleven o'clock

ORGAN PRELUDE - Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
CALL TO WORSHIP - Choir
LITANY - page 14
SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Epistle: Romans 12:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 8:1-13

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM - All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name
- James Ellor

DOXOLOGY

HYMN NO. 689 "How Firm A Foundation"

SERMON: REFUSE NOT HIM THAT SPEAKETH

Text: Hebrews 12:25

INVITATION HYMN NO. 434 "Rock of Ages"

(You may come forward at this time to confess before men that you wish to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. The Elders and prayer warriors will pray with you following the service and you will depart newly blessed in your soul.)

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE - Praise God From Whom All Blessings
Flow - Bach

* * *

WELCOME TO VISITORS - We are happy you have come and our prayer is that God will reveal Himself to you in His love and power as you worship with us. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." You will get the Word of God here for we believe all of His Word

EVENING SERVICE - The service at 7 p.m. is a joy to share in and we want all to get its blessings before beginning another week. God will meet you and give strength for all your needs. Come tonight!

JOHN HUSS PLAY - Tell others about the splendid and inspiring drama to be staged here by Bob Jones University February 14-15. Tickets \$2. for Mr. Jones.

PARSONAGE TELEPHONE - 788-6670 CHURCH - 788-6060

PRAYER LIST: Mr. and Mrs. Abner Alexander and family, Leonard and Lily Howard, M.A. Ward, Mrs. Frank Smith, Mrs. Addie Tuttle, Mrs. C.B. Cody, May Marshall, Alton Watkins, Pauline Stewart, Mrs. Grace Bellomy, Betty Holleman, Sam Hutchins, Warner Mahaffey, Jesse Thornton, C.L. Mays; MILITARY: Perry Barrett, David Lambeth, Jr. Pete Christian, Richard and Kent Mays, Jack L. Crews, Bill Dehn, Murry Mechum, Billy Meadows, Jimmy Turner, Larry Reich, Larry Pfau, Don Poindexter, George Smith Russell Masten, Johnny Taylor, Danny and Johnny Raines; MISSIONARIES: Marilyn Andrews, Barbara Jones, Katie Talbert, Gary Johnsons, Kathy and Les Bruce, Manuel Arenas, Bill Sasnet, Rev. Euredjian, Bob Griffin, Dr. Robert Rapp, Mrs. Beckon, Rescue Mission, Joy Ranch, Rev. Wurmbrand, all persecuted believers, Miss Philips, P. J. Mathew, G.R. Lorne, Paul Voronaeff, Dr. George Hopkins, Leonard Hopkins, Glenn Abel, Mrs. MacNaught, Gordon Wolfram.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: The Pastor will begin a class for boys with Bible memorization, to begin two weeks from yesterday. Time: 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays. All youth must have special instruction for membership in Bible Moravian Church by ruling of the Board of Elders.

SPECIAL PATRIOTIC PROGRAM ON RADIO - Tune in February 1, this coming Saturday for a program running continuously from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Station WGPL (FM), 93.1. (See bulletin insert.)

MEN IN AUTHORITY - These are special days for America. The President and every official down to the courthouses need the prayers of God's people as they seek to undo the mess that has been piling up for years. They will be subjected to merciless attacks of Satan as they take their stand and hold ground against the Devil. Pray for God's Spirit to baptize them with power and courage and grace.

II Chronicles 7:14 is our only hope.

62-25004-26

Pastor Rev. David R. Jones

705 E. Sprague Street, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Board of Elders

D. R. Jones Chairman

H. L. Masten Vice Chairman

R. S. Disher Secretary

W. W. Stewart Treasurer; Ex-officio Member

J. D. Everhart, C. B. Cody, D. L. Lambeth

Sunday School Superintendent H. L. Masten

Organist Mrs. R. S. Disher

Building Committee

H. L. Masten Chairman

D. R. Jones Secretary

R. S. Disher, W. W. Stewart, James Cude, Curtis Craig, Charles Pitts.

Weekly Services

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Evening Worship 7:00 P. M.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 P. M.

Prayer Meetings

Tuesdays (Women) 9:00 A.M.

Saturdays (Children) 10:00 A.M.

Saturdays (Men) 7:00 P. M.

Radio Program

Saturday (WKBX, 1500 kc) 9:30 A.M.

Bible Moravian Church

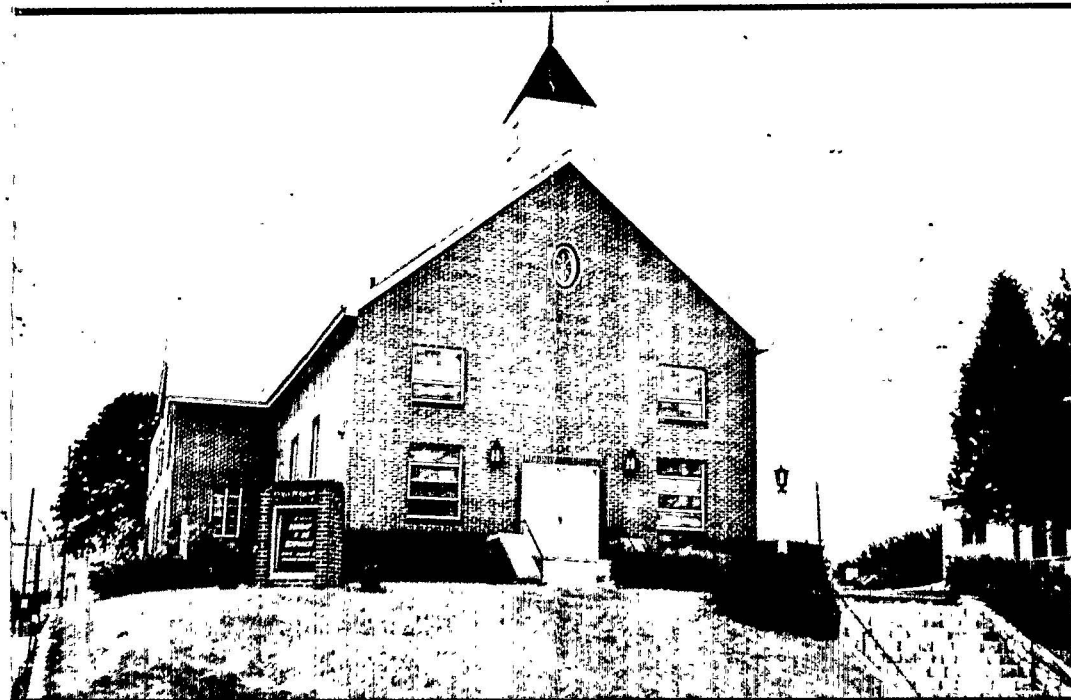
(Independent and Unaffiliated)

Founded 1457

Renewed 1967

701 E. Sprague St.

Winston-Salem, N. C.



Our Stand

The Bible is the infallible Word of God, verbally inspired and without error. Because synods, bishops and councils tend to usurp its authority, we disavow them. (John 17:17).

The Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour and God, is the only hope of lost men for heaven; His shed blood the only remedy for their sin. (1 John 1:7). He is coming again to catch up the believers to heaven and then He will judge and rule the world. (1 Thess. 4:17; Matt. 25:31).

There is a literal eternal hell and a literal eternal heaven. (Matt. 25:46).

All men must be born again of the Spirit (John 3:6,7) and should receive the fullness of the Spirit to serve the Lord (Ephes. 5:18).

It is the joy of Christians to proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad until He comes again. (Acts 1:8).

Bible Moravian Church

Independent and Unaffiliated

701 EAST SPRAGUE STREET

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. 27107

TELEPHONE 788-6060

DAVID R. JONES

PASTOR

705 EAST SPRAGUE STREET

TELEPHONE 788-6670

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

January 30, 1969

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have some young Christian boys who are greatly admiring this very celebrated inmate of Alcatraz, the "Birdman". A book was written on his life and prison experiences authored by one named Gaddis. The inmate's name is Robert Stroud. The book became a movie and the movie was shown on TV recently.

I became interested in this man who is being lauded so highly and quite another version of this "Birdman of Alcatraz" came to me. It seems that a Federal agent who was connected with his case protested publicly that Hollywood was building up a two-time murderer and a sex pervert. If this is the case, I want to divert the boy to a more worthy idol.

Can you advise me as to the facts in this case? I am very appreciative of any help you can offer.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

ENCLOSURE

REC-115

62-25000-36

JAN 31 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

FILE

61 FEB 17 1969